



Call for proposals - "Energy stakeholders for Africa"

2024 Intervention Regulation

PURPOSE OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Region is prioritising the energy transition dynamic in Africa through its international relations policy, and namely the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7 "Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all".

As part of this call for proposals, it wishes to support collaborative projects, combining entities of various natures through a consortium: An association and a company, a collectivity and a university, etc., and at least two entities from the Région Hauts-de-France.

The proposal must mainly focus on the completion of projects for access to sustainable energy in Africa:

- Access to collective or individual electricity, and based on a renewable source: Solar, wind-powered, hydraulic, biomass, hydrogen, etc.
- Heating or cooling: Cooking with renewable fuels or cooling with renewable sources.

The proposals may also cover the following areas:

- Energy decarbonisation
- Circular economy and recycling of waste generated from electrification projects
- Smart energy networks
- Optimisation of existing networks
- Sustainably mobility solutions
- Sustainable buildings and energy efficiency in relation to the development of renewable energy



Through this call for proposals, the Région Hauts-de-France is aiming to circulate and share the ambitions of its Rév³ policy and the expertise of regional stakeholders, in order to develop projects for access to sustainable energy in Africa.

It particularly regards the promotion and development of future strategic and innovative networks that will generate wealth and employment opportunities.

BENEFICIARIES

The call for applications is addressed to collectivities, EPCI, companies, associations, local missions, social centres, public and private higher education and research institutions - EST, and public and private secondary education (including technological and vocational colleges), sixth form BTS, agricultural and maritime colleges, CFA and higher education apprenticeships.

In regard to education institutions, it should be noted that this scheme can be combined with other regional aid, provided that the other aid scheme does not preclude such cumulation.

PROPOSAL TERMS

The proposals' terms of completion must not exceed 24 months. Only one dossier may be submitted per proposal for its entire term.

The beneficiary must provide a fulfilment schedule for the proposal at the time of submitting the proposal via the dedicated aid platform. The fulfilment schedule sets out the start date of expense eligibility.

Namely, the extension of the duration of the project must remain exceptional, and the Region will grant only one extension of the duration of the project and for a maximum period of one year.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

STAKEHOLDERS

The project is being carried out by several partners in a consortium under the following conditions:

- The consortium must consist of at least 3 entities (including the project leader who will be the main contact for the Region)
- The consortium must involve entities of a different nature (e. g. a company with an association and an educational institution)
- The consortium must consist of two entities established in the Hauts-de-France Region of which at least one company
- The consortium will involve one or more local African actors as partners or leaders.

PROJECTS:

- The project must fit into one of the themes mentioned on page 1
- The project submitted must be in the public interest
- The project submitted must include the deployment of equipment in the field or the improvement of an existing system

In compliance with the innovation scale provided in Appendix 1 of this regulation, the proposals must, at the very least, be in the development - technological demonstration phase. Proposals in the fundamental research stage do not fall within the framework of this call for proposals, as the term and phases required up to the development of technology will be excessively long and complex in regard to the sought objectives, namely (at the least) the demonstration in the field and (at best) its development with a view to industrialisation, if possible.

- Be sustainable from a social and environmental point of view, and promote inclusive economic development (support for entrepreneurship for ex.)
- Integrate professional training and/or maintenance actions.

Projects that do not meet these criteria will not be selected.

For project leaders who have already received a regional grant under the Call for projects, it is possible to apply again under two conditions:

- The new project submitted must not be a replication of the previously funded project, even if it is carried out in another country.
- The new project cannot be a scaling-up of the previously funded project.

CRITERIA FOR APPRAISAL OF PROJECTS

Priority will be given to projects involving technological and/or social innovation, as well as projects that take into account the end-of-life of materials.

It should be noted that a previous socio-economic research or a diagnostic study will also be positively viewed.

LOCATION OF PROJECTS

Proposals may not regard countries or regions classified as being in the **red zone** defined by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

(See <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/conseils-aux-voyageurs/conseils-par-pays-destination/>).

Particular vigilance will be applied to proposals anticipated in countries or regions classified as being in the orange zone, and the Région reserves the right to consult the concerned diplomatic posts. Within the context of proposals executed in the orange zone, the proposal initiator is liable. **The Région may not be held liable for any difficulties encountered in the field.**

In a general sense, the Région Hauts-de-France recommends referral to the "traveller tips" information sheets issued by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs in order to obtain all recommendations in relation to security, health and practical aspects, in connection with the country in which the action is carried out.

SUBMISSION OF THE DOSSIER

Applications must be submitted via the dedicated platform:

<https://aidesenligne.hautsdefrance.fr>

- **Until 2 May 2024,**

The funding application is submitted in the name of the consortium by a single entity, which will be appointed as "Project leader" or "Applicant" for the selected proposal. The application must specify, in addition to the proposal, the respective contributions of each member of the consortium (inclusive budget, identification of all partners at the time of application with a commitment letter from these partners, specifying their respective roles, contributions and financial participation in the proposal). The economic impacts on the Hauts-de-France and African regions must be presented.

Please note that if one or more partners withdraw from the consortium and, as a result, the consortium no longer meets the eligibility criteria mentioned above, the Region will request the return of the amounts unduly collected, unless the project leader finds other partners.

In any case, **the Région shall only form an agreement with the Project Leader.** In the event of the on-lending of funds to a consortium partner, the Project leader is obliged to form an agreement in order to stipulate the commitments made between the parties. These agreements will be requested by the

Région. **The Project leader remains the project manager of the operation, and retains legal, financial and technical liability towards the Région.** The Project leader is responsible for securing the consortium. In all cases, the Region strongly recommends that Project leader enter into agreements with each partner to facilitate the smooth running of the project. A technical kick-off meeting will be mandatory prior to the start of the project by the services of the Region, together with the leader and its partners, in order to clarify the modalities of **project follow-up**.

It should be noted that for initiators of proposals in English, all documents transmitted over the submission platform must be translated in French. Without this translation, the dossier will be rejected.

APPLICATION EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by a technical committee composed of civil servants from the Hauts-de-France Region and external partners.

Step 1: Administrative and technical assessment

This step allows to verify the completeness of the file validated online by the project leader. **The project leader will ensure that it has provided information and completed the entire application file.**

The technical appraisal shall include an overall assessment of the eligibility of the project.

Project leaders will have to be available throughout the technical appraisal for possible exchange periods, for approximately two months from the closing date for the submission of dossiers.

Step 2: Pre-validated assessment

This step concerns proposals for which positive conclusions have been issued following the technical assessment. The proposals are put to a vote of the officials for funding allocation.

Step 3: Pending validation to execution

This step only concerns proposals that have been subject to a decision to award funding made by the deliberating body. During this step, an agreement will be drawn up between the Project leader and the Région.

The first payments will be made at the end of 2024 (compliance with the institutional agenda). Applicants must ensure that they have sufficient capacity to carry out their project while awaiting the award decision and the first instalments.

EXPENSE ACCOUNTING

An aid application dossier should be submitted before starting project execution, it being specified that the submission of the said dossier in no way presumes the decision that will be made by the deliberating structure.

In the event of a positive decision, only expenses incurred after the submission of the application dossier on the dedicated regional aid platform may be taken into account by the Région.

Funding-eligible expenses will be calculated by the regional departments, based on a realistic and objective budget provided by the Project leader. It includes a section relating to investment expenses and revenues, and another section relating to operational expenses and revenues. The total budget

for the proposal must be presented, including valuations. The budget must be balanced in terms of expenses and revenues, and must indicate the revenues solicited and obtained. **A non-compliant presentation will result in an application refusal.**

Eligible expenditure: preparatory studies, purchase of equipment, installation of technology, awareness-raising actions, training actions, administrative and current costs linked to the project, staff costs linked to the project, mission expenses, etc.

Funding-eligible expenses are calculated based on the total expenses, from which expenses that are no eligible for this call for proposals will be deducted, such expenses namely including: Labour contributions (volunteering), asset contributions (in-kind donations), service contributions (e.g. Provision of premises or equipment, free supply of services), depreciation charges, bank charges related to the maintenance of the account, "risk and contingency" expenditure items.

Expenses relating to personnel (operational and investment sections) may not exceed 15% of the funding-eligible expenses of the total budget for the operation.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR REGIONAL PARTICIPATION:

Regional participation may not exceed 100,000 euros per proposal (investment and operational combined) within the limit of 50% of the funding-eligible expenses for operations, and 50% of the funding-eligible expenses for investments.

If, over the course of assessment, it appears that the regional aid may constitute direct or indirect State aid, under the terms of Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the regional aid will be allocated on the grounds of EU Regulation No. 1407/2013 of the Commission of 18 December 2013, pertaining to the application Article 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union for de minimis aid, as amended by Regulation 2020/972 of 2 July 2020, published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 7 July 2020. A declaration of de minimis aid must therefore be completed by the applicant and sent to the Région at the time of submitting the dossier.

The payment, verification, tracking and reversal procedures are detailed in Appendix 2.

To pair you with a partner in the Région Hauts-de-France and to propose a consortium, you can contact:

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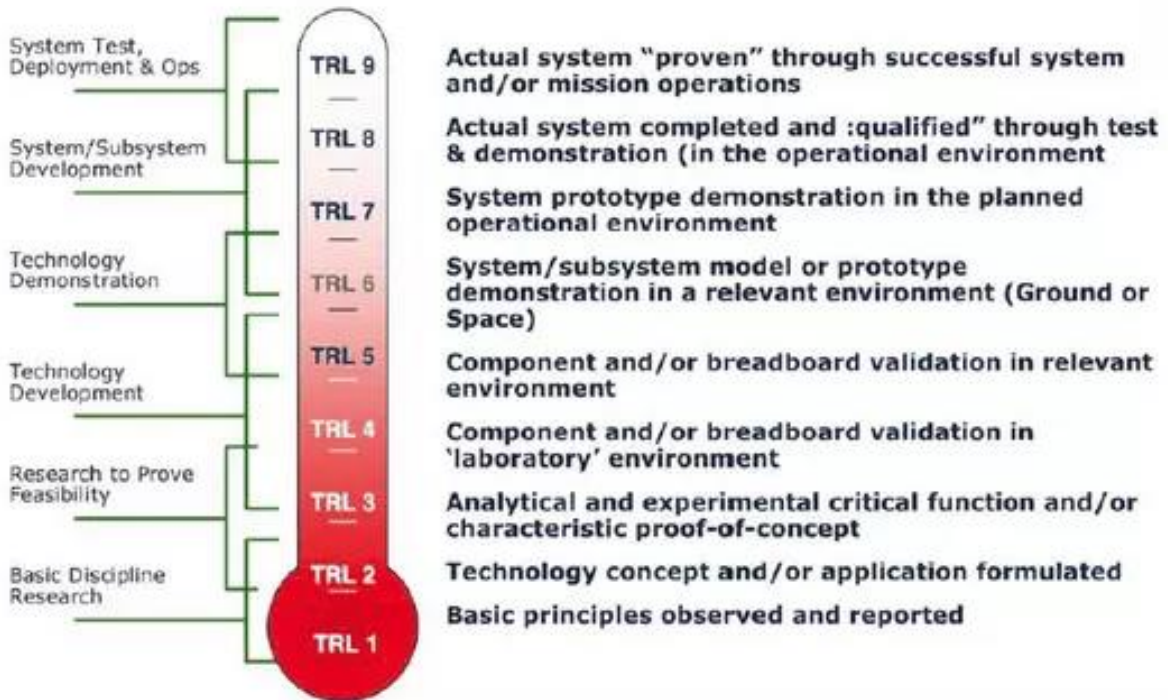
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APPENDIX 1

TRL Scale (Technology Readiness Level)

Assessing Specific Technology "Functional Maturity" Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs)



Source : https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Overview-of-the-technology-readiness-level-scale-1011_fig3_328529157

APPENDIX 2

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

1) PURPOSE

The regional contribution must not exceed EUR 100,000 per project (investment and operation expenditure combined) up to 50% of the eligible operating expenditure and 50% of the eligible investment expenditure. The grant is a rate grant.

Should the final cost of eligible expenditure be lower than the eligible expenditure selected, the final grant awarded would then be calculated by applying the percentage of assistance to the eligible expenditure incurred or paid. If the current eligible expenditure is greater than the estimated eligible expenditure, the grant shall be equal to the amount voted by the regional executive.

2) CONTROL PROCEDURE

For grants of less than or equal to EUR 7000:

- Payment of the grant will be made in a single instalment and will be made as soon as the decision becomes enforceable.

- A posteriori check will be carried out on presentation of:

- a summary statement of expenditure paid, duly dated and signed by the beneficiary's legal representative, and a statement of revenue received and/or receivable dated and signed by the beneficiary's legal representative,
- a detailed assessment of the operation, and a financial report (listing all the expenditure planned and carried out as well as the revenue forecast and received, including a qualitative project's report describing in particular the nature of the actions undertaken and the results achieved in relation to the initial objectives of the project) in accordance with the Ministerial Decree of October, 11th 2006 and, for the associations, a report setting out the actions taken to comply with the commitments entered into at the signing of the Regional Charter of Secularism and Republican Values.

Payment and implementation procedures:

Payment of the grant will be made in one instalment upon presentation by the Regional Services:

- a payment certificate drawn up by the Hauts-de-France Region,
- the decision which is enforceable,
- bank details (RIB) transmitted to the Beneficiary.

For grants above EUR 7000:

The grant will be paid as follows :

- An advance of 50% of the amount of the grant may be paid for operating costs and 30% for investment expenditure, provided that a reasoned request has been attached when submitting the application and after analysing the financial situation of the supporting structure. Advances may be paid only to private legal persons and local public educational institutions.

-Payments on account will be made and staggered based on the presentation by the beneficiary of the summary statements of the expenditure excluding VAT/tax paid under the subsidised operation and

specifying the nature of the expenditure (see downloadable template on the Region's dematerialised aid platform) and an interim progress report. The cumulative amount of advance and/or payments on account must not exceed 80% of the grant amount. No intermediate deposit can be less than EUR 800.

- The balance of the grant will be paid subject on the sending of :

- a summary statement of expenditure paid, duly dated and signed by the beneficiary's legal representative,
- a statement of revenue received and/or receivable, dated and signed by the beneficiary's legal representative,
- a detailed project's final report and, where appropriate, additional documents listed in the annex to the agreement,
- and for associations only, a report setting out the actions taken to comply with the commitments entered into when the Regional Charter on Secularism and Republican Values.

Payment and implementation procedures:

Payment of the grant will be made by Regional Services upon presentation of the following:

- An advance of 30% or 50% of the amount of the grant, on presentation of:

- payment certificate No 1 drawn up by the Hauts-de-France Region,
- the decision which is enforceable,
- a postal or bank statement of identity.

- For the balance, lump sum or payments on account :

- the certificate for payment drawn up by the Hauts-de-France Region,
- the decision which is enforceable,
- the statement of sums already paid, drawn up by the Hauts-de-France Region in the event of an advance,
- Bank or postal ID.

Procedures for monitoring and controlling the grant :

Follow-up arrangements:

The Region will regularly monitor the implementation of the funded project and ensure that its characteristics conform to the award decision.

The beneficiary is required to inform the Region, by any formal means, of any difficulties encountered in carrying out the operation, both in terms of its content and in terms of its completion deadlines.

Control:

The beneficiary undertakes to facilitate any inspection, on documents and/or on the spot, that the President of the Regional Council wishes to carry out or have carried out within the framework of the execution of this decision and/or after the closure of the project (control of invoices paid, etc. .).

Production of the financial statement (for legal persons under private law):

In accordance with the Ministerial Order of October, 11th 2006, a financial report of the operation signed by the duly authorised legal representative of the beneficiary structure must be sent to the Region within 6 months of the financial year for which the grant was awarded.

It is composed of the following elements:

- A table of the expenses paid and the revenue allocated to the execution of the project showing any differences between the estimated budget and the current budget, the differences shall be the subject of an explanation of the beneficiary structure,
- A qualitative assessment describing in particular the nature of the actions undertaken and the results achieved in relation to the initial objectives of the project.

Assessment methods:

The beneficiary is required to participate, at the request of the Region, in the evaluation system set up for the projects supported, including the completion of the tables of indicators provided by the Region at the time of submission and at the end of the project.

Procedures for the review and repayment of the grant:

Review:

If, at the time of payment of the balance, it is found that the eligible expenditure incurred does not reach at least the amount of the regional grant and that the evidence of expenditure and receipts produced does not reach at least the amount of public grants, the grant will be repaid on the basis of the contribution rate.

Repayment :

The Region will request the full recovery of the sums unduly collected:

- where the project has not been carried out,
- where the documents required for payment for the service rendered have not been produced in time,
- where the financial statement has not been produced in time,
- where all or part of the grant has not been used in accordance with the original application,
- where the purpose of the grant has been altered without authorisation,
- where the reporting obligations, as set out below, have not been complied with.
- where one or more partners leave the consortium and, as a result, the consortium no longer meets the eligibility criteria set out in the intervention regulation (unless the project leader finds one or more other partners)
- in the event of non-compliance by associations with the Regional Charter of Secularism and Values of the Republic.

- in the event of non-compliance by associations and foundations with the Republican contract of commitment, the Region will withdraw the amount calculated in proportion to the period of non-compliance as provided for by Decree n°2021-01 947

If, within one year of the entry into force of the decision, the projects or operations have not begun to be implemented, the decommissioning of appropriations shall be submitted to the regional executive.

Reporting obligations of beneficiaries:

The beneficiaries undertake to make known, by all means and on all communication media, the financial assistance provided by the Hauts-de-France Region for the implementation of the operation.

Communication media are written documents (pamphlet, press kit, posters, leaflets, billboards, internal and annual reports, etc.), audio (interviews, broadcasts, radio, etc.), audio-visual (video, film, clip, etc.) or digital (Internet, etc.).

The beneficiary undertakes to insert the regional logo® in accordance with the graphic charter accessible at the following address: www.hautsdefrance.fr/charte-graphique.