



**ΚΑΠΕ
CRES**

CENTRE FOR RENEWABLE
ENERGY SOURCES AND SAVING

PROGRAMME OPERATOR



Friday, 9 October 2020

Answers to Questions regarding the Open Call of the GR-Energy Programme

Question 1:

Where can we find the annexes to the above Call in editable form?

Answer:

All Annexes of the Open Call of the GR-Energy Programme can be found at the Programme's website,

in Greek:

<http://eeares.cres.gr/proskliseis.htm>

and in English:

http://eeares.cres.gr/eng/calls_eng.htm

Question 2:

Table 3 of Article 5 of the Call contains the breakdown budgets by category of expenditure. The sum of the percentages adds up to 101%. Please specify.

Answer:

In Table 3 (Budget breakdown per expenditure category) of Article 5 (Budget Available for the "GR-Energy" Projects) of the Call, the lower limit of Category 1 "Interventions" is **90.5% and not 91.5%** incorrectly typed. The same correction applies to Table 1 of Annex 1 (Guide for Submitting Project Proposals).

Question 3:

In Table 3 of Article 5 of the Call in the category Interventions we can find the bracket "(equipment, assignment)". Please specify.

Answer:

In Table 1 of Annex 1 (Guide for Submitting Project Proposals) the bracket next to the category "Interventions" is indicated as "(Procurement, Contracting)". This is the correct bracket also in Table 3 of Article 5 of the Call under the Interventions category (typing mistake).

Question 4:

The eligible budget for the project is between € 500,000 and € 1,300,000, including or not including VAT?

Answer:

Article 5 of the Call (Budget Available for the "GR-Energy" Projects) lists the categories of eligible and non-eligible costs. Also, in Section 1 (Expenditure Eligibility) of Annex 1 (Guide for Submitting Project Proposals), the eligibility rules of the Programme are analysed in detail.



PROGRAMME OPERATOR

Question 5:

Our company, which is governed by Law 2545/1997 (OGG 254a/1997 Industrial and Business Areas and other provisions), is interested in submitting a proposal to the Programme "European Economic Area Financial Mechanism" - Programme Area "Renewable Energy Sources, Energy Efficiency, Energy Security", with the aim of an energy upgrade of the public premises and infrastructure of the Park, as well as the installation of RES systems.

According to Article 14 paragraph 2 of the above OGG, "The establishment of an Industrial and Business Areas is always considered to be of public interest". Could you confirm our company's eligibility for submission of a proposal to the Programme so that we can take the relevant actions?

Answer:

Article 4 of the Call sets out the eligibility conditions to participate in the Call. Each potential Project Promoter should examine and document its compliance with all paragraphs 4.1 (namely, eligible applicants should be entities that act towards public interest and have been established and operate in the public interest), (e.g. national, regional and local authorities, municipalities, research and educational institutions etc., within the Greek geographical borders, 4.2. 4.3 and 4.4 of the above Article.

It should also be reminded that in Section 2.2. "Content of the Project Proposal" in Annex 1 (Guide for Submitting Project Proposals) each Project Promoter shall include in its proposal: "Documentation that the Project Promoter submitting the proposal has the competence to submit the Project proposal, such as statutes, Programme Agreement, constitution act, etc."

However, reference to Article 14 par.2 of Law 2545/1997 provides the evidence of "public interest" as a justification of expropriations and does not mean that a company within Industrial and Business Areas serves the public interest. In any case, each potential Project Promoter should justify the fulfillment of all the eligibility conditions of paragraphs 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 of Article 4 of the Call.

Question 6:

Following the Call for the EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA FINANCIAL MECHANISM Programme "GR-Energy", considering Article 4 of the Call, as well as Article 7.2 of the Regulation on the implementation of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2014-2021, that refer to eligible operators (public or private with commercial or non-commercial purpose) from both the Donor Countries and the Beneficiary State, we would like to ask whether a company dedicated to energy audits and the provision of energy service companies (ESCO) is considered eligible for the Programme?

Answer:

As indicated in Article 3 of the Call (Scope of the Call and Indicators of the Programme), "The present Call aims to support projects that propose innovative solutions to increase renewable energy production and energy efficiency in **public social infrastructure**".

Each potential Project Promoter should consider its compliance with all paragraphs 4.1, 4.2. 4.3 and 4.4 of the above Article. In this context, paragraph 4.1 emphasizes that: "Eligible applicants are entities that act **towards public interest** (e.g. research and educational institutions, regional and local authorities, municipal companies, etc.) within the Greek geographical borders" (namely, entities that act towards public interest and have been established and operate in the public interest).

In addition, paragraph 4.4 of Article 4 is highlighted and states that, "EU and national regulations on public procurement, competition and state aid shall be complied with at all



PROGRAMME OPERATOR

levels of the Programme. For this purpose, the project grant rate shall be defined based on the assessment of compliance with State Aid rules”.

Question 7:

We wish to finance a self-production project from solar panels that we would like to install in a hospital in order to have self-production, let us know if we can continue the whole process under the project funding programme in cooperation with CRES and how we can initiate the whole process.

Answer:

The Centre of Renewable Energy Sources and Saving (CRES) is designated as the Programme Operator of the GR-Energy Programme and fully applies the EEA FM regulatory framework 2014-21. The entire relevant regulatory framework of the Programme is available on the Programme's website in Greek:

http://eeares.cres.gr/kanonistiko_plaisio.htm

and in English:

http://eeares.cres.gr/eng/Regulatory_framework.htm

The terms of the current Call are clearly set out in both the main part of the Call and its Annexes. In particular, the content of each proposal is set out in Section 2 and the evaluation procedure is described in Section 3 (Proposal Evaluation) of Annex 1 (Guide for Submitting Project Proposals).

Question 8:

We would like some clarification on the eligible costs as the Call only mentions the categories. Is there a table of all eligible and non-eligible costs in each category? Can you confirm whether the technical studies are eligible?

Answer:

Please see answer number 4.

In addition, in Section 1.2 (Eligible Direct Expenditures) of Annex 1 (Guide for Submitting Project Proposals), the content of the 'Consulting Services' category is described.

Question 9:

9.1 Could you please send us the Presentations of the Web Meeting?

9.2 Does the specific Programme potentially aim at construction companies that will be involved in the construction of a public building?

Answers:

9.1 All Presentations are uploaded at the GR- Energy Programme's website: http://eeares.cres.gr/eng/index_eng.htm

9.2 As aforementioned in the Answer to Question 6, each Potential Project Promoter should consider compliance with all paragraphs 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 of Article 4 (Eligible applicants and partners). The provisions on public procurement (N.4412) will be applied



for the implementation of the integrated Projects, and the relevant procedures will be followed for all potential contractors in accordance with the relevant provisions.

Question 10:

10.1 Can the budget exceed the amount of 1,300,000 and the Project Promoter bear the extra cost, since following the tender's discount the budget will fall below 1,300,000?

10.2 Is the education of school students included in the target values for RES education?

10.3 If RES that will be installed are PVs with offsetting is it required to conduct a cost-benefit analysis?

10.4 Are security and tax clearance certificates required for public entities?

Answers:

10.1 Article 5 of the Call (Budget Available for the "GR-Energy" Projects) and Stage A of the Evaluation in Annex A.1 clearly define the minimum and higher budget of the proposed Projects and the obligations of potential Project Promoters.

10.2 The Scope of the Call and Indicators of the Programme are described in detail in Article 3, Tables 1 and 2. Each applicant Project Promoter should develop the content of the Proposal Dossier in accordance with Section 2.2 of Annex A.1 of the Call. All Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out in Section 3 of Annex A.1 of the Call.

10.3 The use of the possibility of energy offsetting for PVs is permitted, provided that the relevant applicable provisions are kept and are adequately documented in the potential Project Promoter's Dossier in accordance with the requirements of the Call.

10.4 The content of each Proposal's Dossier is clearly presented in Section 2.2 of Annex A.1 of the Call, as well as the specific documents required by the Call. Any differentiation should be documented according to the relevant provisions.

Question 11:

11.1 A public entity has in its possession a building with free concession from a ministry for 35 years and wants to upgrade it in terms of energy efficiency. Is this building eligible for the EEA under this status (free concession)?

11.2 The building has not been in use during recent years and will be again in operation soon. Does this affect its eligibility due to the absence of recent energy consumption?

11.3 Is a civil non-profit company eligible to participate in a partnership?

11.4 What is the percentage of funding in which Partners from Donor States participate and do they receive national co-financing automatically?

11.5 In case a Proposal is approved is there pre-financing?

Answers:

11.1 Section 2.2 of Annex A.1 clearly states the following requirement: "...*Proof that both the Project Promoter and Partners reserve the right to realise interventions in the properties/facilities, supporting documents of ownership, as well as relevant licenses (building permits, others), i.e. ownership titles (transfer of existing properties to the competent land registry, Engineering Professional Certificate according to law 4495/2017, etc.)*". Any specialization should be documented in accordance with the relevant provisions.

11.2 See Answer 10.2. Each applicant Project Promoter should develop the content of its Proposal Dossier in accordance with Section 2.2 of Annex A.1 of the Call. All Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out in Section 3 of Annex A.1 of the Call.

11.3 The answer to Question 6 applies.

11.4 Each potential Project Promoter should consider compliance with all paragraphs 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 of the Call. Section 4 (Payment Model) of Annex A.1 of the Call sets out the financing rules for Integrated Projects. The Programme Operator (CRES) shall ensure their smooth financing in line with their progress and shall fully implement the relevant provisions.

11.5 The answer to Question 11.4 applies.

Question 12:

12.1 The third bullet of Stage B Criterion A.5 in Annex A.1 is the "Installed capacity for production of renewable energy", whereas in Annex A.11 of the Call this particular bullet is included in the description of Criterion A.4. Which one is correct?

12.2 How many Independent Evaluators will be involved in each Proposal.

Answers:

12.1 There is a spelling mistake. It is valid as described in Annex A.11 of the Call, namely: the indicator "Installed capacity for production of renewable energy" is included in the "A.4 Project contribution in achieving the Indicators of the Programme GR-Energy related to the "hard" measures (such as EE-investments, RES, monitoring equipment, resulting savings)" criterion and not in the description of A.5 included by mistake in the text of the Call.



12.2 Each Project will be evaluated by (at least) 2 Independent Evaluators under the supervision of the Programme's Executive Selection Team and by implementing the No. 526/1329/19-02-2020 Joint Ministerial Decision on the Management and Control System for the implementation of the EEA FM 2014-21 (OGG B 526/13249/19-02-2020) and the GR- Energy Programme's Management System.

Question 13:

13.1 How is ownership documented in the case of the facilities management concession?

13.2 In which category of expenditure is technical design (e.g. electromechanical study) included?

13.3 Is cooperation between donor states mandatory or is it simply rated? What funds are being used to finance such cooperation?

13.4 In the case of public buildings, is the building permit or adjustment a compulsory (binary) supporting document at the submission stage?

Answers:

13.1 See answer to Question 11.1.

13.2 See paragraph 1.2 of Annex A.1 of the Call where eligible expenditure categories are described.

13.3 See answer to Question 6. As indicated on the cover of the Call, Projects are funded by:

- EEA-EFTA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway under the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-21 (75%).
- Public Investment Programme of the Hellenic Republic (25%).

13.4 See answer to Question 11.1.

Question 14:

14.1 Is there a maximum number of partners in a partnership?

14.2 Is there a maximum percentage of funding per partner?

14.3 If a public building is to be upgraded, can a University's research laboratory, that will undertake the energy studies, be involved as a partner? Or will its role be consultative as a subcontractor?

Answers:

14.1 See answer to Question 6.



14.2 See answers to Questions 6, 10.1 and 13.1.

14.3 See answer to Question 9.2.

Question 15:

Art. 3 of the Call (Scope of the Call and Indicators of the Programme) refers to the interventions in a building/s which in turn lead to B+, A, A+ and nZEB building categories. In fact, an earlier version of the EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) is required to improve performance.

However, infrastructure (a term also used in Article 3, but not specified) is not necessarily limited to buildings. Perhaps the term infrastructure should be more specific for the needs of the Programme?

Answer:

According to Article 3 of the Call *"The present Call aims to support projects that propose innovative solutions to increase renewable energy production and energy efficiency in public social infrastructure".* Since interventions concern Buildings, there should be an EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) in accordance with the existing provisions and requirements of Article 3 of the Call.

Question 16:

Does the Net-Metering procedure document revenue for the entity that implements the project or is it calculated only as energy savings?

Answer:

See answer to Question 10.3.

Question 17:

A building was transferred to the entity with free concession from another entity, is it eligible for funding under the Programme?

Answer:

Answer to Question 11.1 applies.

Question 18:

Will you send us the Presentations of the Web Meeting and is there video material available?



PROGRAMME OPERATOR

Answer:

See answer to Question 9.1. There was no possibility of video recording, all presentations are uploaded at the Programme's website: http://eeares.cres.gr/eng/index_eng.htm

Question 19:

Can we include in one proposal 3 buildings which belong to the same entity and meet the criteria?

Answer:

Each applicant Project Promoter should develop the content of its Proposal Dossier in accordance with Section 2.2 of Annex A.1 of the Call. All Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out in Section 3 of Annex A.1 of the Call.

Question 20:

Regarding the invitation code 3740/22-07-2020, could you please send us the link where the annexes are uploaded or send us the relevant files.

Answer:

The Annexes in Greek language can be found at the Programme's website:

<http://eeares.cres.gr/proskliseis.htm>

Accordingly, the Annexes in English language are also available here:

http://eeares.cres.gr/eng/calls_eng.htm

Question 21:

I would like to ask whether a Municipality can apply for the above Call as a Project Promoter without a partner.

Answer:

See answer to Question 6.

Question 22:

Is a proposal for the construction of a virtual energy offsetting PV park considered as eligible according to the Call for all provisions (street lighting, schools, municipal buildings)?

Answer:



See answer to Question 10.3.

Question 23:

23.1 Could an entity constitute a consultant for the project, implementing fully or partially the support services indicated in the Call?

23.2 According to Table 3 about Expenditure, contracting expenditure is considered eligible. In the case of contracting work are specific projects aiming for the proper implementation of interventions integrated?

23.3 According to criterion B6 in the Table of Eligibility Criteria, an entity may submit a single proposal as Project Promoter or Partner. If entity A submits a proposal as a Project Promoter, does it have the permission to participate as a partner in a proposal submitted by a different Project Promoter, or based on criterion B6, will both proposals be rejected?

Answers:

23.1 See answer to Question 9.2.

23.2 See answer to Questions 4,8 and 13.2.

23.3 As indicated above, each Potential Project Promoter should comply with all paragraphs 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 of Article 4 of the Call. All Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out in Section 3 of Annex A.1 of the Call.

Question 24:

In the last six months, our municipality has undertaken a mature technical-economic study aiming to transform all municipal buildings into zero emissions buildings while using RES, PV systems as Backup Systems, aiming for the energy security of infrastructure.

In view of the CRES's Programme, how could I have more information?

Answer:

At the Programme's website in Greek,

<http://eeares.cres.gr/index.htm>

but also, in English:

http://eeares.cres.gr/eng/index_eng.htm

The website includes all relevant material related to the Call (Programme, Open Call, Bilateral Relations, Help desk, Workshop material, etc.).

All questions raised at xm-eox@cres.gr are answered and posted for everyone at the above website.



PROGRAMME OPERATOR

Question 25:

My area is involved in sustainable positioning of offshore wind farms. I would like to ask you if under this scope we could submit a proposal to GR-Energy. My understanding is that the Call mainly refers to energy efficiency in buildings, so I wanted to crosscheck whether proposals should be confined to this area or could relate more generally to the different forms of RES.

Answer:

All proposed Projects of the Programme should be consistent with Article 2 (General Objectives of the Programme) and Article 3 (Scope of the Call and Indicators of the Programme) of the Call.

Question 26:

Regarding the Open Call (code 3740) for submission of Project Proposals to the EEA FM 2014-2021 Programme, could you please explain where I can find the Annexes of the Call.

Answer:

See Answer to Question 20.

Question 27:

We request an extension of two (2) months of the submission deadline of Project Proposals.

Answer:

The Amendment of the Call has been uploaded at the Programme's website as follows and the final closing date for the submission of Project Proposals is **23 November 2020 at 17:00**.

http://eeares.cres.gr/pdf/calls/Gr_Energy_1st_Modification_EN_20200924.pdf

Question 28:

28.1 Is our entity considered as an eligible applicant according to the Call? For your information, our entity is a Legal Entity governed by Public Law whose sole share has been transferred to the Hellenic Republic Asset Development Fund (HRADF), while the public purpose is derived from the OGG on the establishment of relevant entities.

28.2 The projects that we consider submitting concern buildings (more than one) located on the Central Pier. In particular: External thermal insulation of building A, geothermal



PROGRAMME OPERATOR

heating-cooling operation of buildings A and B, a PV facility for net-metering implementation. Are these actions considered as eligible?

28.3 Can the funding rate rise up to 100%?

28.4 Can one or more projects be submitted with a budget of less than €500,000?

Answers:

28.1 As indicated above, each Potential Project Promoter should consider compliance with all paragraphs 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 of Article 4. As also described in Annex A.1 of the Call, Criterion A.6 of the Evaluation stage examines the Documents for substantiating the capability of the Project Promoter/ Partnership.

28.2 See answer to Question 11.2.

28.3 See answer to Question 13.3.

28.4 See answer to Question 10.1.