

Intelligent Energy Europe Programme – Is it for me?

The IEE programme tackles non-technological barriers to the spread of efficient use of energy and encourages greater use of new and renewable energy sources through funding activities:

- to foster energy efficiency and the rational use of energy resources
- to promote new and renewable energy sources and to support energy diversification; and
- to promote energy efficiency and the use of new and renewable energy sources in transport.

The IEE programme supports three types of activity:

- Promotion and Dissemination projects
- Project development support for large-scale sustainable energy investment projects
- Support activities and tenders

Participating in the Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) Programme has many potential benefits. For a start, you can receive up to 75% co-financing for Promotion and Dissemination projects (funding levels vary for other project types). Taking part could enable you to become involved in ambitious projects where you contribute to market transformation. You could be at the forefront of activities to change behaviour, remove non-technological barriers, support implementation of legislation or increase market share of energy-efficient products. However, application is not for the faint-hearted. Preparing a proposal takes considerable time and effort, proposals have to be submitted in the format provided by EACI (the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation), project selection is competitive, and if successful you will have obligations as a consortium member to carry out your project under agreed Commission procedures, even though you will be funding part of the project yourself. There are 7 key issues you should consider before deciding whether IEE may be for you.

1. Does your idea fit with the EC priorities?

IEE is driven by annual *Work Programmes*, which outline the key objectives and topic areas for the programme with the priorities for that year and specific *Calls for Proposals* which list the topics open for submission. Your idea must fit with these objectives and priorities, you are unlikely to be able to “shoehorn” a different idea to fit.

2. Does the activity that you plan fit with the principles of the IEE programme?

IEE projects should directly result in people taking action and in many cases changing the way they do their jobs or go about their daily lives. **It does not fund research, feasibility studies or studies of the current situation in a market.** The activity must be ambitious and have a significant impact at a European level, an aspect which has been given increased importance since 2010. Your proposal will need to have measurable objectives achievable during the project as a result of your activity. Projects are expected to have a high profile and the broadest possible relevance to European citizens and policies, involving key market actors and following a convincing communication and dissemination plan. Although no size is stipulated for IEE projects, most projects are in the range of 1 to 2 M€ total budget.

3. Do you want to be part of a European project?

IEE requires you to be part of a European consortium, usually at least three independent legal entities from 3 different countries¹. In addition you need to justify why this work should be carried out at a European level rather than being funded at a national, regional or local level and how the solutions you offer can be transferred to other parts of the EU to make an impact at a European level. If you actually want funding for a UK-focused project then IEE is unlikely to be for you.

4. Are you prepared to share the work and results?

IEE projects are collaborative, each consortium partner must play a genuine role and carry out a reasonable share of the project work. Projects with “token” partners, or with one partner leading the majority of the work and receiving a large proportion of the funding, will score poorly and are unlikely to be successful in the evaluation.

The outputs of IEE projects must be made freely available to all in order to maximise their transferability. You must be prepared to undertake work to disseminate the results of your work throughout the project and to encourage others to take up the learning and outputs.

5. Are you able to make a contribution to the cost of the project?

IEE is a non-profit programme. The Community provides funding on a cost-share basis, based on the reimbursement of eligible costs, mainly staff costs and an agreed fixed level of overheads. For promotion and dissemination projects this contribution can be up to 75% for activities carried out after the Grant Agreement has been signed. It is important to note that eligible costs are *actual costs* incurred, not consultancy fee rates, and that you will need to be able to provide the balance of the funding yourself or provide evidence of third party funding in order to be successful. However, tenders are submitted on a normal competitive basis.

6. Are you prepared to work with established IEE procedures?

IEE has fixed deadlines for proposal submission² with contracts usually being signed 6 months after submission. Projects have a fixed duration, typically 3 years, and must meet agreed reporting requirements, such as all costs being receipted and timesheets being kept. You need to conform to these requirements to receive funding, and may have to repay funds received if you fail to provide appropriate evidence of costs incurred.

7. Are you prepared to submit a proposal in a competitive process?

Preparing an IEE proposal is time-consuming for all partners, and particularly for the Coordinator. You need to be aware that IEE is a competitive programme and accept that you are submitting a proposal on this basis. It is not possible to challenge your evaluation score so you need to be confident about taking part in a process where the success rate can be as low as 1 in 7.

In conclusion, you need to be able to answer yes to all 7 questions to consider submitting a proposal under IEE. The closing date for the main 2012 IEE Call is 17.00 (Brussels time) on Tuesday 8th May 2012. More information can be found on our website <http://www.energiehelpline.co.uk/iee> or at the European Commission website http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/getting-funds/call-for-proposals/index_en.htm

If you think you fit with the call priorities and are up to the challenge please contact us with a summary of your proposal idea, indication of which call priority you are addressing, indicative size and key partners so that we can discuss your idea with you and identify what support we can offer to help you prepare a successful proposal.

¹ Currently the eligible countries are the 27 EU Member States, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Croatia

² Apart from the ELENA facilities

If you didn't answer yes to all 7 questions we are happy to hear from you so that we can try to signpost you to other sources of funding where appropriate.

The EU Energy Focus service is a free, Government-funded service that aims to ensure that UK companies, research institutions and other organisations are well informed and have every chance of success in applying for and securing European funding for energy-related projects.

Our contact details for your queries and requests to be added to our database are as follows:

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