

FAQ

RENEW-BOOSTER PROJECT



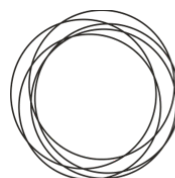
Capenergies®



energy Cluster
Denmark



The Pomeranian Platform
for the Development of Offshore Wind
Energy in the Baltic Sea



CEEC
Clúster de l'Energia
Eficient de Catalunya



ICT Cluster
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Norwegian
Offshore Wind

FAQ and Additional Support

Below you will find a FAQ covering the most frequently asked questions about RENEW-BOOSTER. You can also find general information about Euroclusters, the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP), and initiatives supporting European SMEs on the website here: [European Cluster Collaboration Platform](#).

If you require guidance or support, you may contact a local **Innovation and Business Support Manager** through the **Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)**. EEN is a European network of business and innovation advisors that supports SMEs with internationalisation, innovation, and participation in European programmes. You can find your local EEN contact point here: [Find your local EEN contact point](#)

Important Information About RENEW-BOOSTER

RENEW-BOOSTER is funded under the **Single Market Programme (SMP/COSME)** and provides support to SMEs through **Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP)**, also referred to as **cascade funding**. As a result, local EEN advisors may not necessarily be familiar with the specific rules and requirements of RENEW-BOOSTER. However, they can still provide valuable support regarding innovation, business development, internationalisation, and access to EU funding opportunities.

It is important to understand that RENEW-BOOSTER differs from many national and European funding programmes. The funding model and eligibility requirements are structured differently from traditional grant schemes. While a significant part of RENEW-BOOSTER consists of cascade funding for SMEs, the project also includes a wide range of supporting activities, such as:

- Business support services for SMEs
- Training and capacity-building activities
- Matchmaking and networking opportunities
- Access to innovation and business support experts
- International cooperation opportunities

These activities are designed to help SMEs strengthen their innovation capabilities, develop competitive project ideas, expand their networks, and improve their chances of successfully obtaining funding through the programme.

Co-Funding Requirements

One of the most important aspects of RENEW-BOOSTER is that its co-funding requirements differ significantly from many other funding programmes.

SMEs should be aware that co-funding is mandatory. Companies are required to contribute their own resources and share part of the financial risk associated with the project.

Under RENEW-BOOSTER, SMEs can only contribute co-funding through eligible project expenditures that are not personnel costs. Personnel costs and other forms of in-kind contributions are not eligible as co-funding.

Examples of eligible co-funding expenditures include:

- Materials and components
- Equipment and hardware
- External services and subcontracting
- Prototypes and testing-related expenses
- And other costs in this field.

Personnel costs, salaries, and other internal labour costs **cannot** be used as co-funding.

This requirement is different from many national and EU programmes, where personnel costs often constitute a significant share of project co-financing. In practice, this means that SMEs benefiting from RENEW-BOOSTER funding must make a genuine financial contribution to the project through eligible expenditures. The programme is therefore designed to ensure that participating companies actively invest in the success of their projects rather than relying solely on grant funding.

Eligibility - Who can apply?

- Only SMEs established in EU Member States, SMP Associated Countries, or other countries eligible under the Single Market Programme (COSME Strand) may apply. https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/smp/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_smp_en.pdf
- Not having a conflict of interest with the partners in the RENEW-BOOSTER project.
- SMEs that are under liquidation, in financial difficulty, or excluded from the possibility of obtaining EU funding under the provisions of both national and EU law, or by a decision of both national or EU authority are not eligible to apply for funding.

What kind of project can be funded?

RENEW-BOOSTER supports innovative projects in **solar PV, offshore wind energy, and grid-related technologies**. Projects can focus on developing, validating, demonstrating, or scaling new technologies, products, services, and business models that contribute to the clean energy transition. Applicants should address challenges linked to the objectives of the **Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA)**, and **Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA)**, helping to strengthen Europe's competitiveness, resilience, and energy security.

Application process

Applicants submit their proposals through an Open Call or a Challenge launched under RENEW-BOOSTER. After submission, proposals are evaluated against criteria such as excellence, impact, feasibility, and alignment with the programme objectives. Successful applicants are invited to enter the contracting process before starting their project activities.

What else than funding can RENEW-BOOSTER provide me with?

The RENEW-BOOSTER project also provides European SMEs with training, business support and access to network and potential business partners. In short, the offering consists of:

- Training and competence development: Workshops, training sessions and practical guidance on sustainability, digitalisation and innovation
- Business support: Mentoring, guidance, business process innovation support, and help identifying market opportunities and pathways to deployment
- Networking and collaboration: Access to European clusters, customers, R&D organisations, innovation ecosystems, Enterprise Europe Network, and opportunities to build partnerships and consortia

Please reach out to the RENEW-BOOSTER partners to learn more about how you can benefit from these services.

Are there any mandatory deliverables?

Yes. Funded projects are expected to deliver agreed outputs and reporting throughout the project lifetime. Depending on the type of project, this may include progress reports, technical results, demonstration activities, dissemination materials, financial documentation, and final project outcomes. Specific deliverables are defined during the contracting phase.

Technological Scope and TRL?

RENEW-BOOSTER focuses on innovations within **solar PV, wind energy, and electricity grid technologies**, including digital and system-integration solutions that support the energy transition. The programme targets projects at different stages of maturity, from validation and demonstration to market uptake and scaling. Eligible Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) are around TRL 6 and up.

Strands, what is a challenge, what is an open call?

- **Strands** are the main thematic areas of RENEW-BOOSTER, reflecting key innovation priorities within PV, wind, and grid-related technologies.
- **Challenges** are specific topics or problems that applicants are invited to address with innovative solutions.
- **Open Calls** are the funding opportunities through which applicants can submit project proposals within a defined time period.

Together, the strands, challenges, and open calls help innovators identify the most relevant route for obtaining support and bringing their solutions closer to market.