



Région
Hauts-de-France

Call for proposals - «Energy stakeholders for Africa»

2023 Intervention Regulation



hautsdefrance.fr



PURPOSE OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Région 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.

A consortium mobilising at least one company from the Région Hauts-de-France, as Lead Bidder or partner, will be positively viewed.

The proposal must mainly focus on the completion of projects for «off-grid» 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 if, nevertheless, the proposal demonstrates an innovative character and justifies a robust and structured consortium, and corresponds to general interest and local use:

- 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.

NATURE OF THE PROPOSAL

Executing a project for access to energy in Africa: Creation and development of a sustainable energy system, adapted to the local conditions and corresponding to use in line with general interest or with productive uses which respond to a local and regional interest. Activities of training/education, governance support, and research & development will be positively assessed as they constitute a key success factor for projects.

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.

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.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

The proposals must:

⊙ **Be demonstrative in the energy sectors: Production, storage and distribution. Proposals involving technological innovation will be positively viewed.**

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.

⊙ **Respond to one or more mixed, local productive or collective uses of general interest, or responding to a local/regional interest.**

⊙ **Be sustainable from a social and environmental point of view, and promote inclusive economic development.**

⊙ **Integrate professional training and/or maintenance actions.**

⊙ **Consideration of the end-of-life phase of materials used will be positively viewed.**

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

The funding application is submitted in the name of the consortium by a single entity, which will be appointed as «Lead Bidder» 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).

In any case, the Région shall only form an agreement with the Lead Bidder. In the event of the on-lending of funds to a consortium partner, the Lead Bidder is obliged to form an agreement in order to stipulate the commitments made between the parties. These agreements may be requested by the Région. The Lead Bidder remains the project manager of the operation, and retains legal, financial and technical liability towards the Région.

The economic impacts on the Hauts-de-France and African regions must be elucidated.

Please note: The proposal shall have one or more local partners in the field, in Africa, working alongside the lead bidder or the partner(s). It is specified that only proposals presenting a collaborative nature, thus associating at least two entities from the Région Hauts-de-France in the aim of working together to develop a single proposal, each providing its contribution corresponding to its skills and means, will be reviewed. Proposals may not regard countries or regions classified as being in the red zone defined by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

(See 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.

APPLICATION EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by the regional departments with the help of project management assistance. All applications will be evaluated in line with the criteria set out above, and following the steps described below.

If the application review reveals that the proposal put forward does not meet the proposal evaluation criteria indicated above, the application will be refused on these grounds alone.

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.

Step 1: Administrative and technical assessment

This step enables the verification of the comprehensiveness of the dossier validated online by the proposal initiator. Any section deemed incomplete, or any incomplete or missing mandatory document, will entail the rejection of the application.

The technical assessment includes an overall evaluation of the proposal's eligibility. If the proposal initiator successfully passes this step, the project management assistance will be actioned to carry out opportunity and proposal feasibility diagnostics.

For indicative purposes, the diagnostics will be implemented in line with an evaluation method, appended to this regulation (See Appendix 2).

Proposal initiators must be available through the technical assessment for any discussions and further information required for dossiers, during a period of approximately one month from the closing date for application submission.

Step 2: Pre-validated assessment

This step concerns proposals for which positive conclusions have been issued following diagnostics. The proposals are put to a vote of the officials elected by the regional executive 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 Lead Bidder and the Région.

CALCULATION OF FUNDING-ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Funding-eligible expenses will be calculated by the regional departments, based on a realistic and objective budget provided by the Lead Bidder. 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.**

Funding-eligible expenses are calculated based on the total expenses, from which expenses that are not 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.

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 3.

ASSESSMENT / DECISION

→ Dossier submission:

Applications must be submitted via the dedicated platform:
<https://aidesenlignes.hautsdefrance.fr>

- Until 31 May 2023,

Please note, an approximate three-month period following dossier submission must be allowed for the assessment, carried out by the Project Management Assistance and the regional departments, before a vote is held by the regional executive, and this stands subject to the credit available.

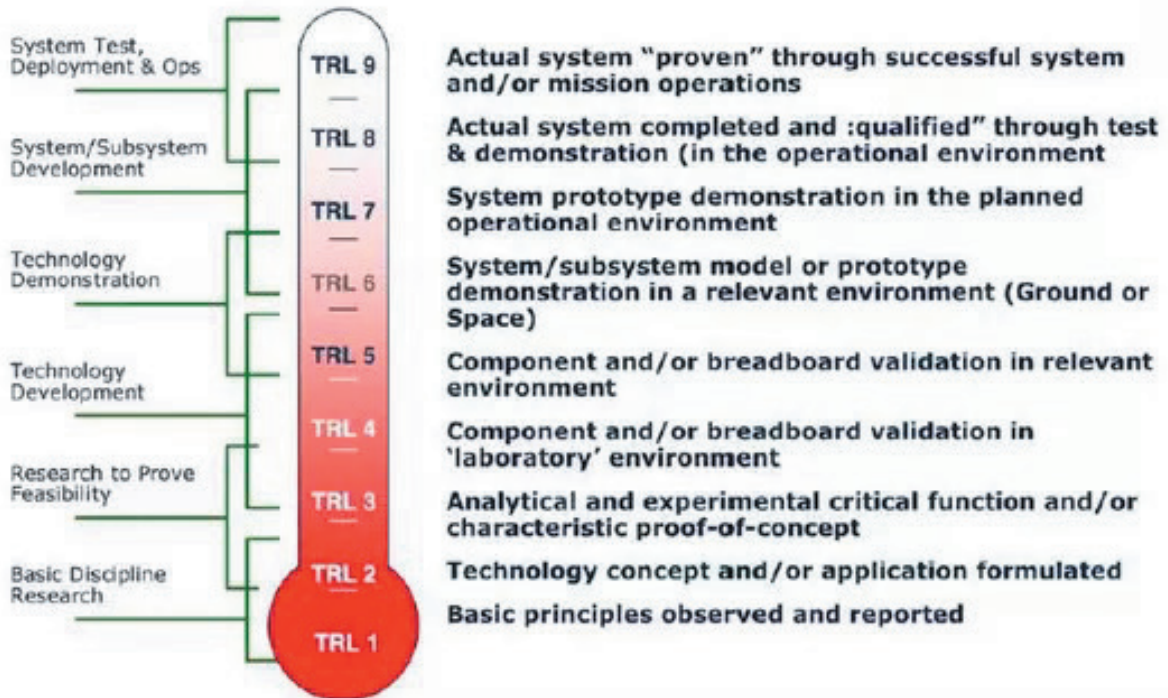
→ Awarding decision:

The awarding of the funding shall be made following assessment, based on the intervention regulation, and subject to credit availability. The dossiers which meet the criteria will be submitted to a vote of the deliberating Assembly of the Regional Council.

APPENDIX 1

TRL Scale (Technology Readiness Level)

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



Source :

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

APPENDIX 2 The Evaluation method to carry out opportunity and proposal feasibility diagnostics As an indication

The degree of importance is noted as such and is subject to change depending on the type of project:

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Bonus	This criterion does not in any way preclude the implementation of the project, but is regarded as an additional benefit
Low	It may be advantageous for the project to develop this criterion
Medium	This criterion requires an in-depth study on the part of the project leader
Strong	The project cannot be carried out without prior analysis of this aspect.

Diagnostics :

Support for the economy of the Hauts-de-France region

Criteria	Well integrated / Not addressed / To be further explored	Degree of importance	Remarks
Mobilisation of companies in the Hauts-de-France region		Strong	
Economic development of the region		Strong	For example, number of jobs created during and after the project

Inclusion in National Electricity Access Strategies and in a Local Ecosystem:

Criteria	Well integrated / Not addressed / To be further explored	Degree of importance	Remarks
National Renewable Energy Development and Electricity Access Strategies		Medium	
Inclusion of the locality in national grid extension programmes and other energy access projects		Bonus	
Involvement of local authorities and national institutions		Strong	
Involvement of local associations or NGOs		Low	
Consistency with people's needs and capacities		Strong	
Nature of on-site project initiator, determination, soundness		Low	
Commitment of beneficiaries to the project		Medium	
Support from local resources		Medium	
Involvement of beneficiaries during the different phases of the project		Strong	
Gender mainstreaming		Bonus	
Targeted impacts in terms of spatial planning		Low	

Project study, power generation and uses:

Project study, power generation and uses:

Criteria	Well integrated / Not addressed / To be further explored	Degree of importance	Remarks
Study of the available energy source and consistency with the type of energy proposed		Medium	
Census of uses and equipment		Low	
Analysis of the needs and demand of beneficiaries in relation to their means		Strong	
Daily energy supply time		Low	
Methodology of sizing equipment		Medium	
Storage means used		Medium	
Taking into account the increase in consumption over time		Bonus	
Innovative and demonstrative dimension of the system		Bonus	

Operation of installed systems :

Criteria	Well integrated / Not addressed / To be further explored	Degree of importance	Remarks
Profile of the identified infrastructure manager		Low	
Operating contract		Strong	
Technical, managerial and even commercial skills		Low	
Recognition from beneficiaries		Low	
Quality and durability of equipment		Medium	
Planned cash flow plan		Strong	
Time of return on investment		Strong	
Raising user awareness of the rational use of energy		Medium	
Provision or identification of a supply channel for low power receivers		Medium	
Consideration of collection and recycling of end-of-life components		Bonus	
Vocational training and accompanying measures for the infrastructure manager		Medium	

Development of economic activities:

Criteria	Well integrated / Not addressed / To be further explored	Degree of importance	Remarks
Proposed methodology for developing economic activities		Medium	
Support for entrepreneurs in the development of their activities		Medium	
Way of promoting local economic development		Low	For example, number of jobs created during and after the project
Objectives of this development		Low	

Sustainability of the project:

Criteria	Well integrated / Not addressed / To be further explored	Degree of importance	Remarks
Strengthening local skills		Medium	
Proposed strategy for replacement of end-of-life equipment		Strong	
Combating theft of equipment		Medium	
Solution for community services		Strong	
Alternative solutions offered to populations who do not benefit from the project		Bonus	
Economic analysis (ability to pay of beneficiaries)		Strong	

The progress and follow-up of the project:

Criteria	Well integrated / Not addressed / To be further explored	Degree of importance	Remarks
Presence of local antennas / partners		Medium	
Number and types of on-site intervention		Low	

Financial soundness of the project:

Criteria	Well integrated / Not addressed / To be further explored	Degree of importance	Remarks
Soundness and consistency of the budget presented		Strong	
Customs duties (exempt or included in the budget)		Strong	
Sustainability of the financing plan		Medium	For example, how CAPEX and OPEX are funded

Pricing in place (ability to pay vs. sustainability of the installation)		Medium	
Method of payment for the service provided		Low	
Proposed service offer		Low	

Capitalization and replicability:

	Not addressed / To be further explored	importance	
Follow-up of the project		Low	
Impact assessment		Medium	
Construction of a comprehensive feedback		Medium	
Demonstrator profile and experience in the event of an innovative project		Bonus	

APPENDIX 3 - 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 - 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:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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: **hautsdefrance.fr/charte-graphique**

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