OPEN CALL ANALYSIS

HORIZON EUROPE D3-14: INNOVATIVE PV SYSTEM DESIGN

HORIZON-CL5-2026-11-D3-14 (EUPI-PV): an Innovation Action to demonstrate agrivoltaics or offshore/nearshore PV at 5 MW or more

EUnita strategic translation

The call pays a consortium to design, build and prove agrivoltaic or offshore/nearshore PV systems, at least 5 MW in total across different EU climate or sea zones. Each proposal picks one area. The money covers modelling, components, standards, permitting work and the demonstrators, as a lump sum fixed from a budget table at 70% (non-profits up to 100%). Around four projects of about €7.5 million are expected, and at least two per area are funded if they pass the thresholds. Companies, research bodies and public bodies can join, in three countries, one a Member State. Reporting results to the EUPI-PV partnership is expected, not a condition. The deadline is 1 December 2026, 17:00 Brussels time.

PV SYSTEM DESIGN ANALYSIS

Fit assessment | Sources | What it funds | Boundaries | Budget & competition | Funded before | Who should apply | Eligibility | Money | Evaluation | Application & timeline | Risks | Recommendations

Deadline: 1 December 2026, 17:00 Brussels time (18:00 in Romania)

Topic budget: €30 million | Expected EU contribution: around €7.5 million per project | Projects: around 4 | Rate: 70% (non-profits up to 100%) | Form: lump sum

Prepared by

EUnita — EU Grant Advisory & Consultancy

Analysis date: 20 November 2026

*This analysis interprets the official call documentation for applicants. It is not legal advice. The official texts are the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026–2027, Part 8 (Commission Decision C(2026) 6687/2 of 29 September 2026) and Part 15 (General Annexes), the Funding & Tenders Portal topic page with its 13 Q&As, the application form, the lump sum model grant agreement and the Online Manual; where this analysis and an official text differ, the official text prevails. Labels used: **Confirmed** (stated in an official source), **EUnita interpretation** (a reading or recommendation by EUnita), **Derived estimate** (arithmetic by EUnita on official figures).*

1. Decision summary: is this call for you?

HORIZON-CL5-2026-11-D3-14 is a single-stage Horizon Europe Innovation Action. It pays a consortium to build and demonstrate agrivoltaic or offshore/nearshore PV systems, at least 5 MW in total. The deadline is 1 December 2026, 17:00 Brussels time (18:00 in Romania). **Who can still use it:** a consortium that already has a written proposal and needs a last check of the rules, and a partner joining a proposal in its last days. **Who should prepare for the next round instead:** a team that is starting from zero. The Work Programme has no repeat of this topic (section 4).

Item	Confirmed position	Source
Topic	HORIZON-CL5-2026-11-D3-14, call ENERGY; run by CINEA	WP8 p. 148; CINEA call page
Action	Innovation Action; lump sum grant; single stage	WP8 pp. 36, 148–149
Dates	Opened 4 August 2026. Deadline 1 December 2026, 17:00:00 Brussels time. No extension at an applicant's request	WP8 p. 35; GA p. 36
Money	€30.00 million; around 4 projects; around €7.5 million each (other amounts allowed); rate 70%, non-profits up to 100%	WP8 pp. 36, 148; GA p. 31
Scope	One area per proposal: agriPV or offshore/nearshore PV. Demonstrators of at least 5 MW altogether. TRL 7–8 at the end, any start level	WP8 pp. 148, 150
Who	Any legal entity, in a consortium of three independent entities from three countries, one in an EU Member State. Romania is eligible. Entities in China are not	GA pp. 6, 11, 13
EUPI-PV link	Funded projects are expected to report results for the partnership's KPIs. Membership is not a condition	WP8 p. 151
Application	Portal forms; Part B of 45 pages plus a detailed budget table	GA pp. 4, 27
Next round	No repeat of this topic in the Work Programme; the next PV topics cover other subjects; later calls not published	WP8 pp. 39, 48

WP8 is Part 8 of the Work Programme 2026–2027; GA is its General Annexes. Page numbers are the printed ones.

Good fit

- ✓ A consortium with a nearly complete proposal and partners in three countries
- ✓ Developers, installers and component makers able to deliver demonstrators of 5 MW or more in total
- ✓ Research bodies with yield modelling, agronomy, marine engineering or standards expertise
- ✓ Social-science partners for permitting and acceptance
- ✓ A partner that can still join a finished proposal with a PIC and a budget line

Not a fit

- ✗ A single organisation, or a consortium from fewer than three countries
- ✗ A team with no draft and no consortium
- ✗ Livestock co-location or inland-water PV
- ✗ Proposals built on existing plants that are not innovatively refurbished
- ✗ Anyone expecting the grant to pay the full cost of building a plant

EUnita verdict (interpretation)

A strong fit for a consortium that already holds a draft and its demonstrator sites. For anyone else, the time left is short for a 45-page proposal with a lump-sum budget table, three countries and a permitting plan. Places are shared by area (section 5), so the credibility of the 5 MW plan and of the Impact case decides. This is EUnita's reading, not an evaluation score.

2. Source verification and document status

Document	Version and date	Used for
Portal topic page and data file	Topic published 12 December 2025; status Open on 20 November 2026	Dates, budget, conditions
Work Programme 2026–2027, Part 8	Commission Decision C(2026) 6687/2 of 29 September 2026; topic text pp. 148–151	Topic rules
General Annexes (Part 15)	Same programme; 44 pages	Annexes A–G
Application form template	V5.1, 22 January 2026	Part B and page limit
Lump sum model grant agreement	V1.0, 1 November 2024; a model with options	Payment terms
Detailed budget table (Excel)	Version 3.6	Budget justification
Online Manual	V1.3, 1 May 2026	Submission rules
Portal answers on the topic	13 answers, read on 19 November 2026; not part of the Work Programme	Clarifications
EUPI-PV memorandum, SRIA 2025–2027, phasing-out strategy	Memorandum copy unsigned and undated; SRIA April 2025	Partnership context

Where the official documents differ

- The SRIA calls the topic "AgriPV or floating PV" at "€7 million per project". The Work Programme says offshore/nearshore PV, around €7.5 million and demonstrators of at least 5 MW. EUnita follows the Work Programme: Annex D scores proposals against its description (GA p. 23).
- The lump sum guide V3.0 gives the Innovation Action rate as 70% "(exceptionally 60%)", and the detailed budget table V3.6 repeats this, but the table's rate list offers only 70% and 100%. Annex G says 70%, non-profits up to 100% (GA p. 31), and the topic text sets no other rate. Annex G is followed.
- **EUnita interpretation:** the Portal answers clarify the text. No official document states their status; where one goes further, the Work Programme and the grant agreement are read as prevailing. The answers on demonstrators are not consistent with each other (section 3).

3. What the call funds

Confirmed: a proposal addresses "only one of the two areas": agrivoltaics (crops and PV electricity on the same land) or offshore/nearshore PV (WP8 p. 150). The General Annexes describe an Innovation Action as work that aims directly to produce plans, arrangements or designs for new or improved products, processes or services, including prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting and large-scale validation (GA p. 14). Results are expected to contribute to some of five outcomes (WP8 pp. 149–150):

- crops and PV electricity together, with benefits for soil, biodiversity and water;
- a stronger European PV value chain, new business models and markets for bankable systems;
- less impact on landscape, sea and environment, and offshore wind and PV co-location;
- designs that cut CAPEX and OPEX, raise output and lower the cost of electricity (LCoE);
- integrated policy design for socio-technical barriers.

Scope: what proposals are expected to show (WP8 p. 150)

- system modelling for reliable energy-yield assessment, with comparable methods for biodiversity and plant yield and quality (agriPV) and for power generation;
- advanced components and architectures of adequate scale, limiting impact on land, sea and environment and optimising grid connection;
- resilience to climate change: extreme events and, for agriPV, changing farming practices or crops;
- standardisation of module and structure design, and a defined permitting process;
- system demonstrators of at least 5 MW altogether, at different EU climate or sea zones.

Conditions that shape the work

- The exploitation plan needs a strong business case, with preliminary plans for scalability and deployment and possible funding sources, "in particular the Innovation Fund".
- Social sciences and humanities experts must contribute effectively.
- Projects that use satellite earth observation, positioning, navigation or timing data must use Copernicus and/or Galileo/EGNOS.

What the EUPI-PV link means

Confirmed: the topic implements the co-programmed European Partnership for Innovation in Photovoltaics. Funded projects "will be expected to report on the results" to it, in support of monitoring its KPIs (WP8 p. 151). The topic sets no membership condition, no special rate and no extra eligibility rule for the partnership. The memorandum adds that the private partners count their in-kind contributions as eligible costs minus the EU contribution. **EUnita interpretation:** that describes the partnership's accounting, not an applicant duty.

What the Portal answers say about the demonstrators

- **Confirmed:** the Work Programme asks for system demonstrators of at least 5 MW altogether (WP8 p. 150). A single demonstrator below 5 MW is fine if all together reach 5 MW (answer 91249).
- Answer 102687 says that "in principle" the 5 MW refers to newly constructed (innovative) PV capacity. An existing plant that is not innovatively refurbished does not count (answer 102686); a completely rebuilt existing site "should be a very rare case" (answer 84564).
- Answer 84563 (changed 17 November 2026) accepts new agriPV plants at "Ready to Build" stage, provided they are not yet commissioned or in operation.
- Answers 103297, 103299 and 103300 say that sites must be designed, and permits obtained, during the project, and that construction and commissioning follow once permits are obtained.

EUnita interpretation: the answers are not consistent with each other. A plant that is already designed or permitted, or at "Ready to Build" stage, sits between answers 84563 and 103297 to 103300; its applicant should ask CINEA in writing before the deadline.

4. Boundaries: avoid the wrong door

What this topic does not fund

- Livestock co-location: the topic names crops (Portal answer).
- Inland waters such as reservoirs, dams and lakes: the topic is for offshore/nearshore PV (Portal answer).
- Proposals that mix both areas, and the full cost of building a plant (section 9).
- Cascade grants to third parties: the topic makes no provision for them.

The next EUPI-PV topics

Confirmed: the Work Programme 2026–2027 has no further topic on agriPV or offshore/nearshore PV. Its next EUPI-PV topics cover other subjects. Dates can move: the Director-General may open a call a month earlier or later and delay a deadline by up to two months.

Topic	Subject	Opens / deadline	Budget
D3-15	Production technologies for solar PV beyond the state of the art; TRL 7; bars entities controlled from China	3 December 2026 / 31 March 2027	€36 million; around 3 × €12 million
D3-16	Industrial processes and equipment for tandem technologies	4 August 2027 / 1 December 2027	€28.5 million; around 3 × €9.5 million
D3-17	PV-based electrification: system design for industrial electrification and electricity markets	4 August 2027 / 1 December 2027	€18 million; around 3 × €6 million

WP8 pp. 39, 48, 151. A later Work Programme, or a call after 2027, is not published.

5. Budget, competition and expected number of grants

Item	Position	Source
Topic budget	€30.00 million, subject to appropriations. Budgets are indicative: final figures may change by up to 20% of the total budget of each Work Programme part	WP8 pp. 35, 148; GA p. 29
Per project	Around €7.5 million expected; other amounts are not precluded	WP8 p. 148
Number of projects	Around 4	WP8 p. 36
Split between areas	The topic text sets no budget split between agriPV and offshore/nearshore PV	WP8 pp. 148–151
Portfolio rule	At least the two highest-ranked agriPV and the two highest-ranked offshore/nearshore PV proposals are funded, provided they pass all thresholds	WP8 p. 148

Derived estimate: at around €7.5 million each, 4 projects use €30 million. With the portfolio rule, the four indicative places can all go to the two best proposals of each area. EUnita interpretation: the contest is mainly inside the chosen area, and a proposal ranked third in its area has little room unless extra budget is found. The rule applies "provided that proposals attain all thresholds": an area with fewer than two proposals above the thresholds cannot fill its two places, and the text does not say how the unused budget is then used.

Derived estimate: a typical project of about €10.7 million of costs, funded at €7.5 million, leaves about €3.2 million of costs that the grant does not cover. Non-profit partners may be funded up to 100% of their costs, so the real gap depends on the partner mix.

Not published: the number of proposals received, success rates or scores.

6. What has been funded before

Not published for this topic: the Portal lists no projects, because the topic has had no earlier round. CORDIS lists earlier Horizon Europe projects on the same technologies, with the EU contribution below (grant numbers in brackets).

Project (CORDIS page)	Topic and type	Period	EU contribution
REGACE (101096056)	HORIZON-CL5-2022-D3-01-06, Innovation Action	Feb 2023–Jan 2026	€5,330,750
SYMBIOSYST (101096352)	HORIZON-CL5-2022-D3-01-06, Innovation Action	Jan 2023–Dec 2026	€4,827,668
PV4Plants (101096409)	HORIZON-CL5-2022-D3-01-06, Innovation Action	Jan 2023–Dec 2026	€4,079,701
SuRE (101135567)	HORIZON-CL5-2023-D3-01-03, Innovation Action	Sep 2024–Aug 2027	€7,082,804.76
BAMBOO (101136142)	HORIZON-CL5-2023-D3-01-03, Innovation Action	Jan 2024–Dec 2026	€6,917,726.25
Nautical SUNRISE (101135639)	HORIZON-CL5-2023-D3-01-03, Innovation Action	Dec 2023–Nov 2027; CORDIS: terminated 5 May 2026	€6,803,003.95
SUREWAVE (101083342)	HORIZON-CL5-2021-D3-03-10, Research and Innovation Action	Oct 2022–Sep 2026	€3,515,097.50
NATURSEA-PV (101084348)	HORIZON-CL5-2021-D3-03-10, Research and Innovation Action	Nov 2022–Oct 2026	€3,621,694.10
AGRISOL (101235234)	HORIZON-CL5-2024-D3-02-10, coordination and support action	Nov 2025–Oct 2028	€1,999,922.83 (CORDIS shows no total cost)

Topic titles: 2022-D3-01-06 "Novel Agro-Photovoltaic systems"; 2023-D3-01-03 "Floating PV Systems"; 2021-D3-03-10 "Innovative foundations, floating substructures and connection systems for floating PV and ocean energy devices"; 2024-D3-02-10 "Market Uptake Measures of renewable energy systems". AGRISOL is a coordination and support action on market uptake, not a demonstration project. The partnership's earlier PV topics D3-12 and D3-13 closed on 31 March 2026.

EUnita interpretation: the offshore/nearshore area has three earlier Innovation Actions with EU contributions of €6.8–7.1 million each (SuRE, BAMBOO, Nautical SUNRISE), so a proposal in that area should show how it goes beyond them: Excellence is judged on ambition beyond the state of the art. The three agriPV Innovation Actions have EU contributions of €4.1–5.3 million each. These are figures of earlier topics with different rules, not the size of a grant under this topic.

7. Who should apply, and with which ideas

EUnita interpretation: the topic suits a consortium of developers, equipment makers, researchers and social-science partners with access to sites in at least two climate or sea zones. A Romanian entity can be the Member State partner, a site host, a component maker or an agronomy or SSH partner.

Partners to bring in

- **Plant developers and installers**, who build the demonstrators and obtain the permits (within the project, according to the Portal answers).
- **Makers of modules, structures, trackers, floaters, cables and inverters**, who prove components at scale.
- **Research bodies and universities** for yield modelling, agronomy, biodiversity, marine engineering and standards.
- **SSH experts, farmers' organisations, authorities and insurers** for permitting, acceptance and site access.

Ideas that match the text

- **AgriPV:** crop-compatible structures and designs for different climate zones, linked to yield and biodiversity models and a permitting blueprint.
- **AgriPV:** adaptation to changing crops and extreme events, with bankable business models for farmers.
- **Offshore/nearshore:** floaters and structures for European wave and wind conditions, and cables and electronics for wet, harsh sites.
- **Offshore/nearshore:** PV co-located with existing offshore wind, with grid connection and user-conflict assessments (shipping, fishing, sand extraction, military use, sailing).

Every idea needs a 5 MW build plan across zones, a standards route and an exploitation plan that names possible funding sources, in particular the Innovation Fund.

The Romanian angle

EUnita interpretation: the topic asks for demonstrators at "different EU climate/sea zones". A Romanian partner that can offer farmland, a site or a permit route adds a climate zone that a consortium from western Europe may lack. Romanian research bodies and companies can also take the agronomy, yield-modelling, SSH or component-testing roles. The topic sets no maximum consortium size, so a coordinator can add partners where the work plan needs them, within the 45-page limit.

8. Eligibility checklist

✓	Any legal entity may take part, wherever established; funding needs an eligible country (GA pp. 4, 11–12).
✓	Consortium of at least three independent legal entities as beneficiaries, each in a different country: one in an EU Member State, two others in Member States or associated countries (GA p. 13). Affiliated entities do not count.
✓	Romanian legal entities are eligible for funding; Romania is an EU Member State (GA p. 11).
✓	Associated countries: the GA p. 11 list includes Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Türkiye and Ukraine; the Portal's list of participating countries is the current one. The Overseas Countries and Territories linked to Member States are also eligible for funding (GA p. 11).
?	Low- and middle-income countries on the GA p. 12 list can receive funding. EUnita interpretation: they do not count towards the three-country minimum.
✗	Entities established in China are not eligible in any Innovation Action, in any capacity: as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions or subcontractors. Exceptions may be granted case by case for justified reasons. Universities under China's MIIT are excluded everywhere (GA pp. 6–7).
✓	The extra control restriction for Innovation Actions is not stated for this topic (GA pp. 9–10; WP8 p. 148). It applies to the next topic, D3-15.

✗	Entities under EU restrictive measures cannot take part. Entities established in Russia, Belarus or non-government-controlled areas of Ukraine cannot take part in any capacity either, except where an exception is granted case by case for justified reasons; an entity established outside Russia whose ownership is directly or indirectly more than 50% held by an entity established in Russia is also excluded (GA p. 10).
?	Hungarian public interest trusts: GA p. 10 still names the measures of 2022. Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2026/2324 of 13 October 2026 lifted them and repealed Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506 (Official Journal of 21 October 2026). An entity of this kind should check the Portal or ask CINEA before submitting.
✓	One area only: agriPV or offshore/nearshore PV (WP8 p. 150).
✓	TRL: any start, TRL 7–8 expected at the end (WP8 p. 148; TRL 7 is a system prototype in an operational environment, TRL 8 a complete and qualified system, GA p. 15).
?	Demonstrators: the Work Programme asks for at least 5 MW altogether, in different EU climate or sea zones (WP8 p. 150). What counts towards the 5 MW is not settled. Portal answer 102687 says the plants should "in principle" be newly constructed; answer 84563 (changed 17 November 2026) accepts "Ready to Build" agriPV plants that are not yet commissioned; answers 103297, 103299 and 103300 speak of design, permits and construction within the project. The answers are not consistent: an applicant whose plant is in between should ask CINEA in writing before the deadline.
✓	Public bodies, research organisations and higher education establishments from Member States and associated countries need a gender equality plan at signature (GA p. 17).
✓	Every beneficiary, affiliated entity and associated partner has a PIC; beneficiaries and affiliated entities are validated at grant preparation, associated partners are not (GA p. 36).
✓	A plan for exploitation and dissemination is an admissibility condition. If results are exploited mainly in non-associated third countries, the proposal must explain why that serves the EU's interest (GA p. 4).
✓	Satellite data, if used, comes from Copernicus and/or Galileo/EGNOS (WP8 p. 148).
✗	Applications for projects that are already completed are rejected; started projects are assessed case by case (GA p. 36).
✓	Financial capacity is normally checked for the coordinator at €500,000 or more requested, except public bodies (GA p. 20).
✓	Several applications are allowed, but only one of several very similar proposals is evaluated (GA p. 36).

9. How the money works

Confirmed: eligible costs take the form of a lump sum (WP8 p. 149). The funding rate for an Innovation Action is 70%, and up to 100% for non-profit entities. It is applied inside the method that fixes the amount and does not appear in the grant agreement (GA pp. 31–32). **Derived estimate:** a contribution of €7.5 million at 70% corresponds to about €10.7 million of costs in the budget table (7.5 / 0.70). The budget table decides.

How the lump sum is fixed and paid

- The detailed budget table justifies the amount. Its costs must meet the eligibility rules for actual costs. Purchases and subcontracting must show best value for money. Ineligible costs can reduce the grant, even after the project ends (GA p. 27).
- The table calculates indirect costs automatically; its section E is printed as 25% * (A+C), that is direct personnel and purchase costs. Work packages and beneficiaries follow the order of the proposal.
- Payment follows completed work packages. The coordinator declares each one completed or not completed in the periodic report. An incomplete package can be completed and paid in a later period; at the final reporting period a work package can be declared partially completed, with a percentage of completion (lump sum guide pp. 17–18).

- Pre-financing is normally 160% of the average EU funding per reporting period. A deduction of 5% to 8% of the maximum grant amount goes to the mutual insurance mechanism (GA p. 33).
- The model agreement sets a ceiling of 90% of the maximum grant amount on pre-financing and interim payments together, and a final payment 90 days from receiving the periodic report (Data Sheet, MGA pp. 12–13). It is a model with options; the signed agreement decides.
- Each beneficiary answers only for its own debt and that of its affiliated entities (GA p. 33).

Demonstrators and the budget

Confirmed (Portal answer): the construction of a 5 MW agriPV demonstration plant cannot be entirely funded. Only depreciation of equipment, infrastructure and assets, by project duration and share of use, is eligible. The budget table follows the same logic: equipment is entered through its depreciation tool (purchase cost, share used for the project, share of useful life in the project). It allows full capitalised costs only where a topic says so, and this topic does not. A consortium must plan how to finance the rest of the build.

- Where a participant's travel, equipment and other goods and services exceed 15% of its personnel costs, the table asks for a justification of the most expensive items in its 'Any comments' sheet.
- Financial support to third parties and access costs can be budgeted only if a topic allows them. This topic does not.

Other rules

- No profit and no double funding from the EU budget (GA p. 36). No costs from before submission are normally reimbursed for projects that have already started.
- For four years after the end of the action the authority may object to a transfer of ownership or an exclusive licence of results (WP8 p. 149), and beneficiaries must report results that could contribute to standards (GA p. 34).
- Start date and duration are fixed in the grant agreement. The topic sets neither.

10. Evaluation

Confirmed: independent external experts evaluate each topic, then proposals are ranked by quality score (GA p. 28). Excellence is judged "to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme" (GA p. 23).

Criterion	What is assessed	Weight in ranking
Excellence	Clarity of objectives and ambition beyond the state of the art; soundness of the methodology, with the gender dimension, open science and engagement of end-users where relevant	1.0
Impact	Credibility of the pathways to the outcomes in the topic; measures to maximise impact, including the dissemination and exploitation plan	1.5
Quality and efficiency of the implementation	Work plan, risks, effort and resources; role of each partner and the capacity of the consortium	1.0

- Each criterion scores 0 to 5. The threshold is 3 per criterion and 10 out of 15 overall. The Impact weight of 1.5 applies to ranking only (GA p. 26; evaluation form p. 2).
- **Derived estimate:** the weighted maximum for ranking is 17.5 (5 + 7.5 + 5).
- The topic adds the portfolio rule: the two best agriPV and the two best offshore/nearshore PV proposals are funded if they pass all thresholds (WP8 p. 148).

Tie-break for equal scores (GA p. 28)

1. Proposals that cover aspects of the topic not covered by higher-ranked ones.
2. For Innovation Actions, the Impact score first, then Excellence.
3. Gender balance among the researchers in leading roles.
4. Geographical diversity: the number of Member States or associated countries represented that do not otherwise receive funds higher up the list, then budget.
5. Other panel factors, such as synergies between projects or the involvement of SMEs.

Confirmed: operational capacity is judged inside the third criterion. The form asks for a description of each participant, the researchers involved, up to five relevant publications, products or other achievements, up to five relevant previous projects and any significant infrastructure or equipment (GA pp. 20–21). Public bodies and Member State organisations are exempt from the operational capacity check.

Applicants receive an evaluation result letter. An invitation to grant preparation is not a funding commitment: legal entity validation, financial capacity and exclusion checks follow (GA p. 29). A review request covers procedure only, must come within 30 days after access to the results and is limited to 7,000 characters (GA p. 30). No Seal of Excellence or STEP Seal is indicated for the topic. Comments on the budget table reach only proposals invited to grant preparation, reserve-listed or rejected for large over- or underestimation (GA p. 28).

11. Application package and timeline

- **Platform:** the Funding & Tenders Portal submission system. Choose HORIZON-IA with the lump sum model agreement; the choice cannot be changed. The forms in the system are used, not the templates on the topic page (GA p. 4).
- **Part A:** filled online; administrative data, summary budget and call questions, including the lump sum declaration. **Part B:** a PDF.
- **Page limit:** 45 pages for the title, list of participants and sections 1 to 3 together. Tables, figures and references count. Reference font Times New Roman, at least 11 points, A4, margins of at least 15 mm. After the deadline, excess pages are made invisible (GA p. 4; form template, Part B p. 3).
- **Detailed budget table:** an annex. Save a copy as .xlsx to upload. Beneficiaries and work packages follow the order of the proposal.
- **Language:** any EU language; English is strongly advised.
- **Self-contained:** evaluators ignore hyperlinks that extend the proposal. Proposals are evaluated as submitted; significant changes are not possible at grant preparation (form template, Part B p. 3).

Part B section	What it holds	Indicative pages
1 Excellence	1.1 Objectives and ambition; 1.2 Methodology, including the gender dimension and open science	About 4 and 14
2 Impact	2.1 Pathways to impact; 2.2 Dissemination, exploitation and communication, with the business case	About 3 and 3
3 Quality and efficiency of the implementation	3.1 Work plan and resources; 3.2 Capacity of participants and consortium	About 17 for lump sum topics, and 3

The template calls its page numbers indicative (form template, Part B pp. 7–14). The 45-page limit applies to the whole.

Date	Event	Status
4 August 2026	Call opened	Confirmed
Sunday 29 November 2026, 17:00 Brussels	Latest time that meets the Online Manual advice: submit "as early as possible and at least 48 hours before the deadline" (p. 38)	Derived estimate
1 December 2026, 17:00 Brussels (18:00 Romania)	Deadline	Confirmed; Romania time Derived
About 1 May 2027	Results, about 5 months after the deadline	Derived estimate from GA p. 30
About 1 August 2027	Grant signature, about 8 months after the deadline	Derived estimate from GA p. 30

Each submitted version replaces the previous one until the deadline. Afterwards no correction or resubmission is possible. All contact persons of the coordinating organisation receive an e-mail after each submission; without it, the proposal was not submitted. A complaint about a technical failure on the Portal side goes to the IT Helpdesk within 4 calendar days after call closure. The applicant should secure a time-stamped PDF of Part B and the annexes and screenshots of the failure, which the IT Helpdesk may request (Online Manual p. 40). The deadline "cannot be extended" at an applicant's request (GA p. 36). A call-specific results date is not published.

Support named on the topic page: National Contact Points, the Enterprise Europe Network, the Research Enquiry Service, the European IPR Helpdesk, the CEN-CENELEC and ETSI helpdesks, Partner Search and, for technical problems only, the IT Helpdesk.

12. Risks and red flags

Risk	Why it matters
Time	The deadline is fixed. Nothing can be corrected afterwards, and excess pages beyond 45 disappear. A Director-General delay of up to two months is possible but cannot be relied on.
Portfolio rule	Around 4 grants and a floor of two per area. A proposal outside the top two of its area has little room. No applicant figures exist.
Demonstrator build	At least 5 MW of demonstrators in total. The Portal answers are not consistent on plants that are already designed or permitted (section 3). Permit delays inside the project can block delivery and payment of a work package.
Construction cost	Equipment, infrastructure and other assets are eligible only as depreciation (Portal answer 103301). A lump sum at 70% leaves co-financing to the consortium.
Budget table	Ineligible costs can cut the grant later. The lump sum must approximate real costs.
China	No entity established in China, in any capacity (beneficiary, affiliated entity, associated partner, in-kind third party, subcontractor); the General Annexes (p. 7) allow exceptions case by case for justified reasons. This topic does not bar entities established elsewhere but controlled from China; D3-15 (opening 3 December 2026) does.
No repair after evaluation	Proposals are evaluated as submitted. Significant changes to content, budget or consortium are not possible at grant preparation.
Document drift	The SRIA and older partnership texts describe the topic differently from the Work Programme. Write to the Work Programme and the Portal answers.
Scope choice	A proposal that blends the two areas, or adds livestock or inland-water sites, falls outside the topic text. Excellence is judged against the Work Programme description.

Risk	Why it matters
Business case and SSH	The topic requires a strong business case and an effective social-science contribution. **EUnita interpretation:** a thin treatment of either can cost points, because the criteria are applied to the topic description (GA p. 23).
Late joiner	A partner without a PIC, a budget line or, for public bodies and universities from Member States and associated countries, a gender equality plan can sink a proposal.
Results	The authority may object to a transfer or exclusive licence of results for four years after the end of the action.
Partnership after 2027	EU funding for the EUPI-PV mechanism after 2027 is undecided, and the partnership can launch calls only until 31 December 2027. Plan follow-up funding that does not depend on it.

13. EUnita recommendations

If a written proposal exists

1. Confirm one area, at least 5 MW of demonstrators in total in different climate or sea zones, and TRL 7–8 at the end. If a plant is already designed or permitted, ask CINEA in writing before the deadline (section 3).
2. Check the permit plan against Portal answers 103297, 103299 and 103300: design and permits inside the project, construction after them.
3. Rebuild the budget table from the proposal's work packages. Remove costs that are not eligible, show depreciation for plant and save a copy as .xlsx.
4. Strengthen Impact: the business case, the possible funding sources (the topic names the Innovation Fund in particular), standards and the social-science work on permitting and acceptance.
5. Confirm the consortium: three countries, one Member State, no China-linked entity, PICs, gender equality plans.
6. Submit well before 17:00 on 1 December 2026 and check for the confirmation e-mail. Later versions replace earlier ones, so an early complete version costs nothing.
7. Keep a time-stamped PDF of Part B and the annexes, and screenshots of the submission. The IT Helpdesk may ask for them in a technical-failure complaint.

If a partner is joining in the last days

Ask for the proposal's area, work packages and budget line before agreeing. The partner needs an EU Login account and a PIC, a place in Part A and a line in the budget table in the proposal's order. Public bodies, research organisations and universities from Member States and associated countries must hold a gender equality plan at signature.

If the team is starting from zero

Prepare for the next round. This topic has no repeat in the Work Programme. D3-15 (deadline 31 March 2027) and D3-16 and D3-17 (deadline 1 December 2027) cover other subjects. Build the consortium around sites and partners that will remain useful for a later call. The partnership can launch calls only until 31 December 2027, and its EU funding after 2027 is undecided (memorandum p. 19; phasing-out strategy).

Unresolved points

- Which plants count towards the 5 MW: the Portal answers are not consistent (section 3).
- Whether a later Work Programme repeats an agriPV or offshore PV topic: not published.
- A definition of "nearshore": the Work Programme gives none, and the Portal answer only points to an outside image.
- Project duration, reporting periods and the exact pre-financing amount: set in the grant agreement.
- Applicant numbers and success rates: not published.
- A call-specific date for results and signature: only the general timetable applies.

Sources

- Portal topic page HORIZON-CL5-2026-11-D3-14, with its 13 topic Q&As: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-cl5-2026-11-d3-14 (read 19 Nov 2026; status checked 20 Nov 2026)
- Portal data file of the topic: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/data/topicDetails/horizon-cl5-2026-11-d3-14.json (downloaded 19 Nov 2026; re-checked 20 Nov 2026)
- Work Programme 2026–2027, Part 8 Climate, Energy and Mobility (topic text pp. 148–151): https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2026-2027/wp-8-climate-energy-and-mobility_horizon-2026-2027_en.pdf (downloaded 19 Nov 2026)
- Work Programme 2026–2027, Part 15 General Annexes: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2026-2027/wp-15-general-annexes_horizon-2026-2027_en.pdf (downloaded 19 Nov 2026)
- Application form template HE RIA and IA, V5.1: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/temp-form/af/af_he-ria-ia_en.pdf (downloaded 19 Nov 2026)
- Evaluation form template HE RIA and IA, V4.0: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/temp-form/ef/ef_he-ria-ia_en.pdf (downloaded 19 Nov 2026)
- Lump sum model grant agreement, V1.0: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/ls-mga_en.pdf (downloaded 19 Nov 2026)
- Detailed budget table HE LS, version 3.6: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/temp-form/af/detailed-budget-table_he-ls-euratom_en.xlsm (downloaded 19 Nov 2026)
- Lump sums: what do I need to know? V3.0: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-funding-what-do-i-need-to-know_he_en.pdf (downloaded 19 Nov 2026)
- Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual, V1.3: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/om_en.pdf (downloaded 19 Nov 2026)
- CINEA page for call HORIZON-CL5-2026-11: https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/funding-opportunities/calls-proposals/eur-1315-million-available-horizon-europe-energy-call_en (read 19 Nov 2026)
- EUPI-PV partnership page: https://etip-pv.eu/eupi-pv/ (read 19 Nov 2026)
- EUPI-PV memorandum of understanding (unsigned copy): https://etip-pv.eu/publications/etip-pv-publications/download/mou-eupi-pv (downloaded 19 Nov 2026)
- EUPI-PV SRIA 2025–2027: https://etip-pv.eu/publications/etip-pv-publications/download/eupi-pv-sria-2025-2027 (downloaded 19 Nov 2026)
- Phasing-out strategy for EUPI-PV: https://etip-pv.eu/publications/etip-pv-publications/download/phasing-out-strategy-for-eupi-pv (downloaded 19 Nov 2026)
- CORDIS: REGACE, grant 101096056: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101096056 (read 19 Nov 2026; re-read 20 Nov 2026)
- CORDIS: SYMBIOSYST, grant 101096352: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101096352 (read 20 Nov 2026)
- CORDIS: PV4Plants, grant 101096409: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101096409 (read 20 Nov 2026)
- CORDIS: SuRE, grant 101135567: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101135567 (read 20 Nov 2026)
- CORDIS: BAMBOO, grant 101136142: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101136142 (read 20 Nov 2026)
- CORDIS: Nautical SUNRISE, grant 101135639: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101135639 (read 20 Nov 2026)
- CORDIS: SUREWAVE, grant 101083342: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101083342 (read 20 Nov 2026)
- CORDIS: NATURSEA-PV, grant 101084348: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101084348 (read 20 Nov 2026)
- CORDIS: AGRISOL, grant 101235234: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101235234 (read 19 Nov 2026; re-read 20 Nov 2026)

Checked 20 November 2026. Official updates prevail.