Horizontal Call for WP 2026-2027:
R&I in Support of the Clean Industrial Deal

Czech Cluster 5 national infoday

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Policy Context

Policy Context – Clean Industrial Deal (CID)

- CID Communication was published on 26 February 2025 - as a follow-up to the Competitiveness Compass, it aims to **direct investment towards infrastructure and industry in order to support the EU's industrial decarbonisation, growth, and competitiveness <u>goals</u>**.

- Confirms Europe's dedication to these goals by **offering clear business incentives** to support the decarbonisation and competitiveness of European industry, at the same time. It will help **creating lead markets to boost supply and demand in clean tech, accelerate the roll-out of clean energy & manufacturing, and reinforce a circular economy**.

- It focuses on **energy-intensive industries** and on **clean tech sectors**

- The Communication states that "*R&I is a key enabler for promoting the next generation of clean tech, clean energy and decarbonised manufacturing in the EU. The **flagship Horizon Europe call of ca. <u>EUR 600 million </u>under the 2026-2027 work programme supports <u>fit-for-deployment projects</u>**.*"

Call Overview & Principal Features

CID Horizontal Call – Overview

- Horizontal call (between **Clusters 4 and 5**), with 2 topics (in each year; 2026 & 2027):

    1. *Clean Technologies for Climate Action*

    → EUR 290 million across 2026 and 2027

    2. *Decarbonisation of Energy-Intensive Industries*

    → EUR 250 million across 2026 and 2027

- Both topics are **Innovation Actions** targeting **fit-for-deployment solutions**

- A complementary call of EUR 50 million in support of the Clean Industrial Deal is included in the **Research Fund for Coal and Steel**.

Principles & Features of the Call

Open Character

- **Applicants are free to decide** on the specific tech value chain they wish to strengthen through innovative competitive & decarbonization solutions

Focus on Industrial Competitiveness

- Demonstrate **industrial leadership** in view of the deployment after the project (i.e. put together a consortium composition that allows for effective collaboration between relevant stakeholders and future deployment).

- Set out a sound **business plan** and **market-readiness strategy** on how to prepare and support the deployment of the proposed tech solution within/across relevant EU industrial sectors.

- Think ahead in view of **Leveraging investments** for deployment

Value Chain & Cross-Sectorial Integration

- Ensure the development of technological solutions **across a specific tech value chain** (i.e. involving adequate combination of suppliers, users & relevant stakeholders).

Expected Impacts

- **Accelerate the roll-out and deployment** of European industry decarbonisation and cleantech solutions across EU industrial sectors (EII + manufacturing, energy and transport).

- **Promote the competitiveness** of the cleantech and decarbonised industries in the EU.

- **Support the manufacturing capacity in Europe** for industry decarbonisation and cleantech solutions and strengthen sustainable and resilient value chains in Europe to reduce strategic dependencies.

- **Facilitate the mobilisation and alignment of public & private investments** for innovative decarbonisation and cleantech technologies and processes in the EU.

- **Reduce the energy price gap in Europe** via the deployment of competitive cleantech and industrial decarbonisation solutions.

Cleantech for Climate topic

Topic: *Clean Tech for Climate*
Expected Outcomes

- Strengthen the **competitiveness, sustainability and resilience of an innovative clean tech solution** by clearly demonstrating the capability to, significantly:

    (1) **increase its circular material use rate**, based on a sound and realistic baseline;

    (2) **reduce the levelized cost of energy (LCOE) delivered to end-users** - including, where relevant, production, distribution, and storage costs, based on a sound and realistic baseline and considering different geographic scenarios; and

    (3) **improve Europe's industrial leadership, resilience, and supply chain security**, in line with the objectives of Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA) for the EU manufacturing capacity of net-zero technologies.

- Bring this innovative **cleantech solution to full technological maturity and close to market-readiness** with a view to accelerating its market deployment and/or integration in key industrial sectors in Europe (e.g. manufacturing, energy and transport).

Topic: *Clean Tech for Climate*
Scope

Three clean tech areas with promising growth potential in Europe *(based on the Transition Initiatives of the Clean Energy Transition (CET) Partnership)*. Proposals are expected to address one or several of these areas:

- **Integrated net-zero emissions energy systems** (e.g. including energy grids, networks and systems)

- **Enhanced zero-emission power technologies** (e.g. including renewable electricity, heat and energy technologies)

- **Storage technologies, renewable fuels, and carbon capture and utilisation** (e.g. including batteries and other energy storage solutions, renewable hydrogen , advanced biofuels and synthetic renewable fuels) enabling climate neutrality

Decarbonisation of Energy-Intensive Industries topic

Topic: *Decarbonisation of Energy-Intensive Industries*
Expected Outcomes

- **Accelerate the use of innovative processes** to decarbonise industrial processes and bring to the market more **cost-effective clean products** to strengthen the competitiveness, and resilience of EU industries (with quantifiable contribution);

- **Create new innovative first-of-a-kind operational demonstrators** and/or optimise newly installed industrial decarbonisation solutions in Europe; and

- **Demonstrate the market readiness** of the envisaged future clean products and their innovative processes via a credible business plan and an exploitation strategy for industrialisation, including market-tested use cases.

Topic: *Decarbonisation of Energy-Intensive Industries*
Scope

Three tech areas in EII with promising growth potential in Europe. Proposals are expected to address one or several of these areas:

- **Managing of carbon cycle (CCU/CCUS):** optimize and demonstratie technologies for capturing, utilizing, or storing CO_2 and CO from energy-intensive industries.

- **Clean energy usage in production:** support major improvements of clean energy usage in the energy intensive industries.

- **Circularity and resource efficiency:** improve resource efficiency (raw materials, energy, and water) across process industries, including the creation of circular value networks that utilize industrial side-streams and end-of-use waste.

Balanced Portfolios (For Each Topic)

Applicable separately to each of the two topics under the call:

Proposals should clearly select **one main area** but can also address in an **integrated way a combination** of the three areas under the respective scopes. Applicants are **free to decide on the specific value chain** they wish to strengthen in the above tech areas.

To contribute to a **balanced portfolio** covering the three tech areas described in the respective scopes, grants will be awarded to applications not only in order of ranking, but also at least to one (1) proposal that is the highest ranked for each main tech area, provided that the applications attain all thresholds.

In terms of implementation:

Projects funded under these topics will be encouraged to **develop synergies and coordinate with similar or complementary projects** funded under the respective other topic in the call, as well as with relevant projects funded under relevant European Partnerships.

Clean Industrial deal Call

EU Funding & Tenders Portal

Opening: **18 Dec 2025**

Deadline: **15 Sep 2026**

- HORIZON-CID-2026-01-01: R&I in Support of the Clean Industrial Deal: Decarbonisation of energy intensive industries

- HORIZON-CID-2026-01-02: R&I in Support of the Clean Industrial Deal: Clean Technologies for Climate Action

Opening: **12 Jan 2027**

Deadline: **15 Sep 2027**

- HORIZON-CID-2027-01-01: R&I in Support of the Clean Industrial Deal: Decarbonisation of energy intensive industries

- HORIZON-CID-2027-01-02: R&I in Support of the Clean Industrial Deal: Clean Technologies for Climate Action

What is a "go/no go" requirement

Critical milestone required by some topic texts in Horizon Europe. **Also included in the Clean Industrial Deal (CID) call.**

The projects have to demonstrate that they comply with several requirements before entering the demonstration phase.

These conditions vary depending on the topic text. **Always check the official work programme and adjust to the exact conditions of your topic.**

Do not incur any costs related to the demonstration/deployment activities before obtaining a "go" decision from your granting authority.

Read the call text carefully (the requirements are not identical in all topics). Always check the official version of the work programme in the European Commission´s website.

Check the FAQ for the topic (updated regularly).

Introduce a credible, achievable milestone with all due requirements.

Do not take the go/no go decision lightly - either at the proposal or implementation stage. A poor approach can bring your proposal below threshold. Several HE projects are currently suspended or have been terminated as a consequence of a "no go" decision.

Thank you