



**EUSALP** EU STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION

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## EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION IN THE ALPINE REGION

Unlock funding for your energy project



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## Alpine Space

The European Union has set ambitious targets for Europe's energy transition: by 2030 at least 42,5% of energy will come from renewable sources, and energy efficiency will be reduced by 11.7% compared to projections. **Energy transition is also one of the three priorities of the EUSALP Presidency 2025**, which will focus on the establishment and expansion of resilient infrastructure, balanced energy supply, conflict management in renewable expansion, and collaboration among Alpine countries for energy security. Within its 2021-2027 budget **the EU has made significant funding available for regions to implement energy projects**. With numerous funding calls opening in the coming months, now is a good time to explore the opportunities.

### Research and innovation programmes

European research and innovation funding is concentrated in the EU's flagship programme, [Horizon Europe](#). Energy funding can mostly be found in '[Cluster 5: Climate, Energy and Mobility](#)'. Further relevant calls can be found in the '[Clean Hydrogen Partnership](#)' and the '[EU Mission: Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities](#)', which invests around €120 million per year in territory-based projects. **The next Horizon Europe work programmes are expected to be published in April with deadlines in September. The [Cluster 5 'info day'](#) is planned on 6 May.**

Funding for the demonstration of innovative technologies can be sought from the [Innovation Fund](#). Projects cover a wide range of technologies in areas such as energy-intensive industries, renewables, energy storage, net-zero mobility and buildings, hydrogen, and carbon capture, use and storage. Calls for proposals can be tracked on the [EU's Funding and Tenders Portal](#).

The [LIFE Programme](#) is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action. The [Clean Energy Transition sub-programme](#) funds coordination and support actions targeted at breaking market barriers, and typically engage multiple actors including local and regional public authorities and non-profit organisations, as well as consumers. **The LIFE Calls for proposals 2025 will be published in April with deadlines in September.**

### Investment funds

The [European Regional Development Fund \(ERDF\)](#) aims to reduce economic and social disparity between the EU's regions. One of the five priority areas for 2021-2027 is 'the clean and fair energy transition', with a focus on promoting energy efficiency, renewable energy, and smart energy systems, grids and storage. Member States or regions set out their own operational ERDF programmes.

The [InvestEU](#) programme supports sustainable investment and innovation in Europe by providing direct and intermediated financing solutions for private and public project promoters. Contact should be made with the [Information Desk](#) for financing enquiries.

The [Just Transition Fund](#) supports regions that rely on fossil fuels and high-emission industries in their green transition. Certain Alpine regions in France, Austria and Slovenia are eligible territories. Just Transition Plans specify the types of actions foreseen in the eligible territories and open the door to financing.

The [Connecting Europe Facility \(CEF\)](#) is the EU's funding instrument for boosting cross-border energy, transport, and digital infrastructure. Every two years the European Commission draws up a list of EU projects of common interest (PCIs) which may apply for CEF funding. **The facility publishes an annual call for proposals, usually in April.**

The [European Energy Efficiency Fund](#) (eeef) provides market-based financing for commercially viable public projects in the areas of energy efficiency and renewable energy. All projects must achieve at least 30% primary energy savings or greenhouse gas savings. The fund website offers an [eligibility check](#) for potential applicants.

### Territorial cooperation programmes

[Interreg](#) supports regional cooperation across a range of thematic objectives, including sustainable energy. [Interreg Europe](#) will not be launching another call for projects during the current programming period (2021-2027) as all funds have already been allocated. However, Interreg Europe provides free, tailor-made expert support services on energy related topics in the form of [peer reviews](#) and [matchmakings](#). The calls are continuously open and can be requested through a short and easy [application](#) process.

There are many Interreg programmes open to Alpine regions, including transnational programmes [Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE](#) and [Interreg Danube](#), cross-border programmes [Interreg Italy Austria](#) and [Interreg Oberrhein](#) (France-Germany-Switzerland), plus [many more](#). **Interreg calls are launched throughout the year, with open calls listed on the [Interreg website](#).**

While EU funding for the energy transition is plentiful, it is also competitive. Consider carefully which programme your project is best suited to, and pay close attention to the specific rules and requirements. Preparing a successful bid takes time, so don't wait to start preparing proposals with deadlines in 2025!