



Guidance note for applicants

CEAH technical assistance
First call for application

December 2025

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. THE ADVISORY HUB FOR CITIZEN ENERGY	1
3. WHO CAN APPLY?	1
i. Eligibility criteria	1
ii. What is meant concretely by 'citizen energy projects'?	3
4. WHAT SUPPORT DOES CEAH OFFER?	4
A. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES	4
i. What type of support is provided by CEAH experts?	4
ii. Illustrative examples of technical assistance requests	5
iii. How much support is available?	6
iv. How will the support be delivered in practice?	6
B. OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED BY CEAH	7
i. Twinning programme	7
ii. Capacity building workshops	7
iii. Other CEAH services	8
5. HOW TO APPLY?	8
6. HOW WILL APPLICATIONS BE EVALUATED?	8
A. ELIGIBILITY CHECK	8
B. ASSESSMENT AND SCORING	8
C. ENSURING BALANCE	9
i. Geographical balance	10
ii. Type of actors	10
iii. Stage of initiatives	10
iv. Additional balance considerations	11
D. PATHWAY ALLOCATION	11
E. FINAL SELECTION AND RESERVE LIST	11
F. NOTIFICATION	11
7. CONTACT THE CEAH	11
8. ANNOTATED APPLICATION FORM	12

TABLES

Table 1: CEAH eligibility criteria	1
Table 2: CEAH menu of support services	4
Table 3: CEAH technical assistance pathways	6
Table 4: CEAH assessment criteria and scoring system	9
Table 5: CEAH geographical balance	10
Table 6: Annotated application form	12

FIGURES

Figure 1: CEAH beneficiary's journey	7
Figure 2: CEAH assessment process	8

1. INTRODUCTION

This guidance note was designed to help applicants understand how to apply for support from the Citizen Energy Advisory Hub (CEAH) technical assistance. Inside, you will find clear information about who can apply, what kinds of technical assistance and services are available, and how the application and selection process works. We explain each step so any interested applicant knows what to expect and how to prepare a strong application. You will also find practical tips, an annotated application form, and answers to common queries.

2. THE ADVISORY HUB FOR CITIZEN ENERGY

CEAH is a pioneering European Commission initiative promoting a bottom-up approach to the energy transition across the EU. Its goal is to enhance citizen participation and strengthen the social dimension of the Energy Union. As Europe shifts towards a decentralised and decarbonised energy system, CEAH acts as a key resource for local communities, citizens, municipalities, NGOs and small businesses to help them understand how to self-consume renewable energy and manage energy demand to reduce costs.

CEAH supports the development of citizen energy projects, creates enabling conditions for democratising local energy systems, and builds capacity for stakeholders, including energy communities. This includes delivering direct technical assistance to 120 selected initiatives to plan, develop, or scale sustainable energy projects.

More information can be found on the [CEAH website](#).

3. WHO CAN APPLY?

The CEAH technical assistance programme is designed to support and empower **citizen energy initiatives** throughout the EU. Different types of organisations and groups can apply, as long as they are involved in eligible activities within a citizen energy project.

3.1.1 Eligibility criteria

To qualify for technical assistance support, applicants must:

- Belong to one of five eligible stakeholder categories described in the table below.
- Be implementing, or planning to implement, a citizen energy project - or actively supporting such projects. The project(s) should focus on at least one of the eligible activities listed in the table below.
- Be based in an EU Member State.
- Not have already received funding or support for the same aspect of the project for which they are requesting technical assistance.
- Submit a signed letter of commitment.

The table below provides a clear overview of the eligibility criteria for the CEAH technical assistance.

Table 1: CEAH eligibility criteria

Eligibility criteria	Description
Type of actors	<p>Applicants must belong to one or more of the following stakeholder categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen Energy Communities or Renewable Energy Communities as defined by EU Directives¹, as well as similar entities². • Groups of citizens (informally or formally organised, such as homeowners associations).

¹ Citizen Energy Communities are defined in [Directive \(EU\) 2019/944](#), and Renewable Energy Communities are defined in [Directive \(EU\) 2018/2001](#).

² Such as Sustainable Energy Communities in Ireland, or Local Energy Communities in the Netherlands.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small enterprises as defined in EU Recommendation 2003/361/EC³. • Small non-governmental or non-profit organisations, including social economy actors (e.g. cooperatives, associations). • Local public authorities at the Local Administrative Unit (LAU) level⁴, such as municipalities or communes, including their legally recognised groupings or associations⁵, provided they operate at the LAU level or below. <p>Grouped applications from several actors are permitted. In such cases, the group must appoint a designated lead actor who will serve as the primary point of contact and will be responsible for coordinating internal communication and ensuring the effective delivery of the CEAH technical assistance.</p>
<p>Type of initiatives and activities</p>	<p>The CEAH technical assistance is available to eligible stakeholders who are either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing a citizen energy initiative or project, or • Support and enabling citizen energy initiatives within their community or territory. <p>Supported initiatives or projects must involve (or plan to involve) one or more of the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production for selling to the market • Renewable energy self-consumption (individual) • Collective self-consumption at building level • Energy sharing (beyond building level) • Peer to peer trading • Storage • Aggregation • Demand response/flexibility • Distribution • Heating and cooling (individual and collective) • E-mobility (electric vehicles, charging infrastructure, etc) • Energy efficiency services • Retail supply • Education and training • Energy dialogues/climate and energy panels • Collective purchase actions (e.g. joint procurement of solar panels) • Support or inclusion of energy poor and vulnerable households
<p>Geographical scope</p>	<p>The applicant(s) and the supported citizen energy initiative(s) must be located in a EU Member State.</p>
<p>Non-duplication of funding or support</p>	<p>CEAH technical assistance cannot be provided for an activity that has already received funding or support through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other EU-funded projects or calls, or • National or local funding schemes.

³ According to the EU definition (Recommendation 2003/361/EC), a small enterprise is a business that employs fewer than 50 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff and has an annual turnover or annual balance sheet total not exceeding €10 million.

⁴ Local Administrative Units (LAUs) are the lowest level of territorial administrative division used for statistical and governance purposes within the EU. They typically correspond to municipalities, communes, or similar local authorities, depending on the national administrative structure. For more information and country-specific classifications, see Eurostat: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nuts/local-administrative-units>

⁵ Such as, intercommunal structures, 'mancomunidades' in Spain, or similar entities.

	<p>Applicants involved in projects or initiatives that have received funding or support for other activities remain eligible, provided the request concerns a distinct activity not already covered by that funding.</p> <p>If funding or support has been received, the request will be assessed in detail to ensure that the requested technical assistance concerns a distinct and non-overlapping activity.</p>
<p>Signed letter of commitment</p>	<p>Applicants must sign and submit a letter of commitment (using the provided CAEH template) and agree to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit sufficient resources to fully participate in the CEAH technical assistance. • Actively collaborate with CEAH, including attending meetings related to the technical assistance, twinning, and participating in learning and knowledge-sharing activities with other stakeholders in the CEAH network. • Remain in contact with CEAH during and after the technical assistance period for monitoring and impact assessment purposes. • Complete a survey on measuring the social, economic, and environmental impacts of their citizen energy initiative for the European Commission.

3.1.2 What is meant concretely by ‘citizen energy projects’?

CEAH only provides support for eligible actors who are implementing or supporting citizen energy projects involving one or more of the activities listed above. By citizen energy projects, we mean:

- 1) **Who benefits:** The primary target(s) and beneficiaries of the projects should be citizens and/or local authorities, SMEs, NGOs or energy communities
- 2) **Who decides:** The decision powers of the projects should rest with citizens and/or local authorities, SMEs, NGOs or energy communities

Below you will find examples of projects that fall within the scope of CEAH, as well as examples that do not. Please note that this is **not an exhaustive list** and is simply to be used to give applicants an idea about what type of projects would be eligible and what type of projects would not.

Example 1: Collective self-consumption

In scope: A group of apartment building tenants join forces to collectively install solar panels on the roof and self-consume the energy.

Out of scope: A traditional energy supplier provides collective self-consumption as a service, where the citizens involved have a passive consumer role and no ownership or decision-making power in the initiative.

Example 2: Heating and cooling

In scope: a municipality owns and runs the local district heating system, transitioning from natural gas to renewable energy sources.

Out of scope: a private company running a heat network with no cooperative governance.

Example 3: Energy efficiency services

In scope: A social economy actor provides energy-saving appliances and energy efficiency advice to energy poor households.

Out of scope: Third party contractors offering energy efficient building upgrades with no citizen input or decision-making.

Example 4: E-mobility

In scope: An electric car-sharing initiative using a cooperative owned platform.

Out of scope: commercial ride-sharing services owned by a corporation, with no community governance.

Example 5: collective purchase actions

In scope: An energy community plays the role of collective purchase and installation facilitator for its members to install solar PVs.

Out of scope: A bulk purchase scheme offered by a supplier where citizens simply subscribe and have no say.

4. WHAT SUPPORT DOES CEAH OFFER?

CEAH will provide technical assistance to at least 120 citizen energy projects and initiatives around Europe, through two calls for applications. The first call is open from 1 December 2025 until 16 January 2026, while the second call will be opened in June 2026. Selected beneficiaries will receive direct advisory support from CEAH experts, and will be able to access other opportunities offered by the CEAH such as a twinning programme and other peer learning and networking activities.

4.1 Technical assistance services

4.1.1 What type of support is provided by CEAH experts?

The support provided by CEAH includes a **wide range of support services tailored to the needs of citizen energy projects**, organised as five categories of support:

- 1) Financial advisory support
- 2) Technical support
- 3) Legal support
- 4) Stakeholder engagement support
- 5) Capacity building support

The table below provides a detailed overview of the types of support that can be provided by the CEAH experts to the selected beneficiaries.

Table 2: CEAH menu of support services

Support category	Type of service
Financial advisory support	Support with funding and financing , including guidance on identifying and accessing early-stage funding opportunities such as grants and subsidies.
	Support to develop financial models and business plans .
	Support to design fundraising strategies .
	Support to improve financial literacy , including for budgeting, investment planning, tariff understanding, benefit sharing schemes, and other relevant financial aspects.
	Support with innovative financing mechanism design , including guidance on creating tailored financial models such as revolving funds, blended finance structures, cooperatives investment schemes, adapted to the needs of citizen energy initiatives.
Technical support	Support with feasibility and site studies .
	Support with technical system design and engineering .
	Support with energy performance and demand analysis .
	Support with permitting rules and documentation .
	Support with energy storage integration .

	Support with digital and data solutions , such as digital interfaces with intermediaries, data management and the use of blockchain, and peer-to-peer (P2P) energy trading platforms.
Legal support	Support with legal structuring and governance , such as setting up the right legal form, drafting statutes, and defining governance rules.
	Support with contracting and regulatory compliance .
Stakeholder engagement support	Support with communication and outreach , such as developing communication materials and running campaigns.
	Support with community mobilisation and participation , including events logistics, such as organising citizen dialogues and panels, educational seminars, discussions on energy technologies and other participatory activities.
	Support to use behavioural insights and instruments , such as designing tools, messages and incentives for citizen energy initiatives.
	Support to increase inclusiveness and engaging vulnerable groups , such as developing inclusive community engagement strategies.
	Support to build and manage partnerships , including building networks for citizen energy and creating umbrella energy communities.
Capacity-building support	Support to strengthen the internal organisation and day-to-day operations of the project, including project planning, administrative setup, management of members, etc.
	Support to facilitate self-consumption and energy sharing , including how to set up and manage energy-sharing arrangements and contracts.
	Support to establish adequate protection of consumers involved in energy sharing.
	Support to implement the energy efficiency first principle .
	Support to design support schemes that balance the objective of providing fair remuneration to consumers whilst incentivising demand-response.
	Support to professionalise activities and upskilling to ensure lasting competencies.
	Support to create favourable conditions for citizen energy initiatives (e.g., social public procurement, concession).
	Support to design dynamic price offers to engage citizens in demand response.
Support to mainstream sustainable energy action in the social economy .	

4.1.2 Illustrative examples of technical assistance requests

To help you understand the kind of needs a project might have and the type of technical assistance that could address them, we have included below a list of illustrative examples of possible requests from eligible applicants (which are non-exhaustive).

Project needs vary depending on factors such as objectives, maturity, the expertise available within the project team, and so on. The CEAH technical assistance programme is designed to be flexible and adaptable, so your request can focus on a specific issue or combine several categories of support. The examples below show how different needs can be matched with tailored technical assistance.

Example 1: technical and legal support

Actor: A homeowners' association in Poland.

Project needs: The association is planning its first energy related project and wants to implement collective self-consumption for their apartment building but is unsure about the technical feasibility and system design.

Support requested:

- Technical support with feasibility studies to determine the best technical solution for their building, and for navigating permitting rules.
- Legal support to draft energy-sharing agreements and ensure compliance with Polish regulations on collective self consumption.

Example 2: stakeholder engagement support

Actor: A small non-profit association in Italy.

Project needs: The association is launching a new energy efficiency campaign targeting vulnerable household and needs to effectively engage and mobilise the local community.

Support requested:

- Stakeholder engagement support to help develop communication materials and running outreach campaigns, support with organising participatory events, and advice on designing inclusive engagement strategies to involve vulnerable and hard-to-reach groups.

Example 3: technical, stakeholder engagement and capacity building support

Actor: A citizen energy community in Germany.

Project needs: The community is already well-established and they are operating a peer-to-peer energy-trading platform. The community now wants to expand its activities to include energy storage and demand response, and improve inclusiveness by engaging vulnerable groups.

Support requested:

- Technical support for integrating energy storage and demand response technologies.
- Stakeholder engagement support to design inclusive strategies and reach underrepresented groups.
- Capacity building support to professionalise operations and train members.

4.1.3 How much support is available?

Citizen energy initiatives applying for the CEAH technical assistance will be able to receive **between 20 and 40 days** of expert support, as outlined in the table below.

Table 3: CEAH technical assistance pathways

Pathway	Level of support	Technical assistance support categories
Intensive	~ 40 expert days	Beneficiaries can receive technical support across up to 4 different support categories.
Moderate	~ 30 expert days	Beneficiaries can receive technical assistance across up to 3 different support categories.
Light	~ 20 expert days	Beneficiaries can receive technical assistance across up to 2 different support categories.

The allocation of pathways will depend on the specific needs of the beneficiary and the quality of their application (see section 6.4 for more information).

4.1.4 How will the support be delivered in practice?

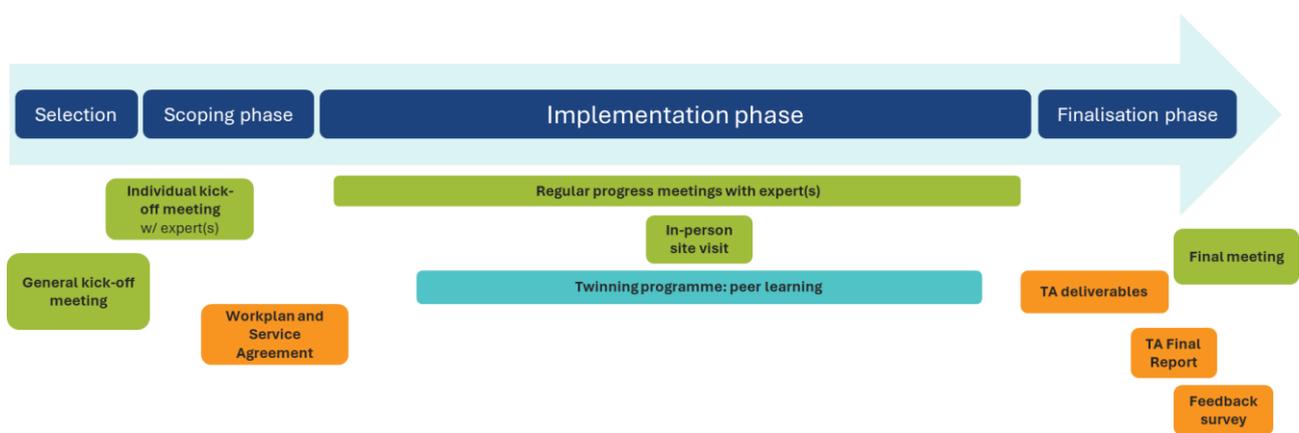
Each selected beneficiary will follow a five-step journey to receive the tailored CEAH technical assistance from within approximately an 8-month period:

- **Expert matching:** After selection, each beneficiary will be matched with the most suitable expert(s) based on their initiative’s needs, required expertise, knowledge of local context, location, and language.
- **Kick-off:** the beneficiary and the experts will join a general and an individual kick-off meeting to clarify goals, the scope of support, and procedures.
- **Scoping:** A tailor-made service agreement and workplan are prepared, defining activities, deliverables, and a timeline.
- **Implementation:** Experts deliver the agreed technical assistance, including at least one-site visit, with ongoing monitoring and support from CEAH coordinators. Beneficiaries also take part in the twinning programme.
- **Finalisation:** A final meeting wraps up the technical assistance, with a joint Final Report capturing results, lessons learned, and next steps. Beneficiaries and experts also provide feedback and inputs for the technical assistance impact assessment.

For each assignment, a dedicated coordinator from the CEAH coordination team will oversee the process and facilitate the connection and exchanges with the expert(s), and act as the main contact point from CEAH for the beneficiary.

For selected beneficiaries from the first CEAH call for application, it is expected that the technical assistance journey will start in the spring of 2026.

Figure 1: CEAH beneficiary's journey



4.2 Other services provided by CEAH

In addition to direct technical assistance delivered by experts, selected beneficiaries can access several other valuable services provided by CEAH.

4.2.1 Twinning programme

As a beneficiary, you will form a small group with other initiatives that have similar interests or needs. Together, you will take part in two to three online exchanges to share experiences, learn from each other, and get practical advice. CEAH experts and coordinators will support your group, helping you connect and providing useful resources. This is a great opportunity to build relationships, gain new insights, and strengthen your project through peer learning.

4.2.2 Capacity building workshops

As a beneficiary, you will have the opportunity to attend capacity building workshops organised by CEAH at national and EU level. These interactive sessions are open to a wider audience and cover practical topics, tools, and case studies to help develop citizen energy initiatives. Such workshops are a chance to learn, network, and access useful materials.

4.2.3 Other CEAH services

Beneficiaries and the wider community can use the [CEAH knowledge hub](#) for practical resources and tools to help design, finance, and promote citizen energy initiatives. You will also be able to connect with others through the [Citizen Energy Network](#), attend [events and webinars](#), and share experiences with peers.

5. HOW TO APPLY?

To apply for the CEAH technical assistance, applicants must fill in and submit the application form electronically via EUSurvey here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CEAHTechnicalAssistance2025>

An annotated application form is provided at the end of this document, including guidance for answering each question. Applications must be submitted between **Monday 1 December 2025 and Friday 16 January 2026 at 23:59 CET**.

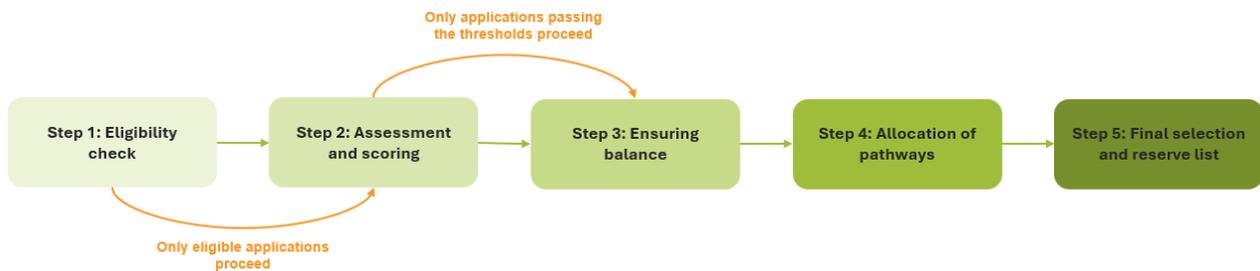
A **virtual EU-level information session** on the CEAH technical assistance call for applications will take place on Thursday, 4 December 2025, from 10:00 to 11:00 CET. You can find details on how to **register** and **access the session recording** (with captions translated into all official EU languages) on the [CEAH website](#).

National information webinars are also organised in some EU Member States, in local languages. More information is available [here](#).

6. HOW WILL APPLICATIONS BE EVALUATED?

The assessment process will follow the steps outlined below.

Figure 2: CEAH assessment process



6.1 Eligibility check

All applications received will be first checked for eligibility based on the criteria outlined in Table 1 (see Section 3). Only eligible applications will proceed to the assessment stage.

6.2 Assessment and scoring

Eligible applications will be evaluated and scored by evaluators according to the assessment criteria outlined in Table 4 (see below). Each application will be scored out of 20 points, across two assessment categories:

- Objectives and impacts of the citizen energy project
- Technical assistance needs and services

To be considered for selection, applications must meet both the overall threshold and minimum pass scores in each category.

Table 4: CEAH assessment criteria and scoring system

Assessment criteria	Description
Objectives and impacts of the citizen energy project	
<i>Maximum score: 10 points</i>	
<i>Minimum pass threshold: 6 points</i>	
Project readiness and sustainability	The project demonstrates feasibility and sustainability through clear planning and clear organisational structure and decision-making processes. This may include a business plan for advanced projects or a vision document for emerging ones. It includes evidence of financial viability, with a maximum payback period of 10 years. The project may also be supported by a letter of intent from a local authority.
Stakeholder engagement and inclusiveness	The project demonstrates a strong ambition to achieve high levels of stakeholder engagement and includes concrete measures to promote inclusiveness and social inclusion. This may include: inclusive membership rules, strategies to address energy poverty or include vulnerable households, gender-balance measures.
Expected impact on citizens	The project clearly outlines the impact and anticipated benefits for citizens, such as empowerment, cost savings, increased participation, reduced energy poverty, improved energy literacy, or enhanced social cohesion. Impacts are contextualised and realistic.
Best practice and replicability	The project has the potential to serve as a model for other citizen energy initiatives and can be replicated in different contexts, ideally inspiring similar projects in other EU Member States.
Innovativeness	The project demonstrates ambition and innovation, either by introducing a novel approach or by applying a new solution within the local context.
Technical assistance needs and services	
<i>Maximum score: 10 points</i>	
<i>Minimum pass threshold: 6 points</i>	
Clarity of the technical assistance needs	The beneficiary clearly articulates and contextualises the need for technical assistance, ensuring they are coherent with the project's description and stage of development.
Commitment of resources for the technical assistance	The beneficiary provides a clear and reasonable plan for committing sufficient human and organisational resources to collaborate effectively with technical assistance experts.
Coherence of the technical assistance services requested	The beneficiary requests technical assistance services that are well aligned with the project's specific needs and the level of support available from CEAH.
Expected impact of the technical assistance services	The beneficiary provides a coherent and feasible description of how technical assistance will advance project implementation, strengthen stakeholder capacity, and deliver benefits to citizens.
Total maximum score: 20 points	
Minimum pass threshold: 12 points	

6.3 Ensuring balance

After applications are scored and ranked, the selection process includes an additional step to ensure a balanced and diverse group of beneficiaries. This is essential to reflect the variety of citizen energy initiatives across Europe.

Ensuring balance means that applicants are not competing solely on their score, but also within groups of similar countries, types of actors, and stages of development. This approach increases the chances for applicants from less advanced contexts or underrepresented groups to be selected and ensures that the support provided by CEAH reaches a broad spectrum of initiatives. The balance criteria are applied as follows:

6.3.1 Geographical balance

Based on the different levels of citizen energy activity and numbers of citizen energy initiatives, we have grouped EU Member States into the following three categories.

Table 5: CEAH geographical balance

Group	EU Member States	Indicative target
Well advanced countries	Austria, Germany, Netherlands.	15%
Advanced countries	Belgium, Denmark, France, Finland, Greece, Spain, Italy, Sweden, Luxembourg, Czechia, Poland, Ireland, Portugal.	55%
Less advanced countries	Hungary, Croatia, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Slovenia, Cyprus, Malta.	30%

A set share of beneficiaries is allocated to each group of countries. This means that a maximum number of beneficiaries can be selected within each group (for example, up to 30% of beneficiaries will be selected from the less advanced countries). For applicants, this means your application will be considered within your country group, not in direct competition with all other countries. This also ensures that Member States with fewer citizen energy initiatives and less access to support are fairly represented.

6.3.2 Type of actors

The selection will aim for a fair representation of all five types of eligible stakeholders (see Table 1):

- Citizen Energy Communities or Renewable Energy Communities as defined by EU Directives⁶, as well as similar entities⁷.
- Groups of citizens (informally or formally organised, such as homeowners associations).
- Small enterprises as defined in EU Recommendation 2003/361/EC⁸.
- Small non-governmental or non-profit organisations, including social economy actors (e.g. cooperatives, associations).
- Local public authorities at the Local Administrative Unit (LAU) level⁹, such as municipalities or communes, including their legally recognised groupings or associations¹⁰, provided they operate at the LAU level or below.

This ensures that support is not concentrated in one type of organisation, but benefits a wide range of stakeholders.

6.3.3 Stage of initiatives

The selection process will also seek support initiatives at different stages:

⁶ Citizen Energy Communities are defined in [Directive \(EU\) 2019/944](#), and Renewable Energy Communities are defined in [Directive \(EU\) 2018/2001](#).

⁷ Such as Sustainable Energy Communities in Ireland, or Local Energy Communities in the Netherlands.

⁸ According to the EU definition (Recommendation 2003/361/EC), a small enterprise is a business that employs fewer than 50 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff and has an annual turnover or annual balance sheet total not exceeding €10 million.

⁹ Local Administrative Units (LAUs) are the lowest level of territorial administrative division used for statistical and governance purposes within the EU. They typically correspond to municipalities, communes, or similar local authorities, depending on the national administrative structure. For more information and country-specific classifications, see Eurostat: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nuts/local-administrative-units>

¹⁰ Such as, intercommunal structures, 'mancomunidades' in Spain, or similar entities.

- **Advanced initiatives:** projects that are already operational or close to completion, with a clear structure and activities underway.
- **Developing initiatives:** projects that are advanced in their preparation, with planning documents (such as a business plan) being developed. Some activities might have started to be implemented.
- **Starting initiatives:** projects that are at the concept stage with limited formal planning so far. Some early actions might have started (e.g. stakeholder engagement).

This allows both emerging and mature citizen energy projects to access technical assistance.

6.3.4 Additional balance considerations

Further diversity will be sought in terms of project types, types of technologies used, organisational forms, and representation of both urban and rural initiatives.

6.4 Pathway allocation

Each shortlisted beneficiary will be assigned to one of the three pathways (light, moderate or intensive – see Table 3) that determines the level and type of technical assistance they will receive. This assignment is based on:

- The needs expressed by the applicant in their application;
- The evaluators' assessment of the quality of the application;
- The resources available.

6.5 Final selection and reserve list

A final shortlist of about 60 applications will be selected by the European Commission for each application round, along with a reserve list of about 10 applications. The reserve list will be used if selected beneficiaries withdraw or if additional resources become available.

6.6 Notification

All applicants will be informed about the outcome of their application. Feedback will be provided to unsuccessful applicants so that they can submit an improved application to the second CEAH call for applications if applicable.

7. CONTACT THE CEAH

For questions related to the call for application, you can contact the CEAH team at: ceahta@ecorys.com

8. ANNOTATED APPLICATION FORM

The annotated application form below is intended to support applicants in completing their submissions by offering practical guidance and clarification. It includes tips, explanatory notes, and additional context to help ensure that responses are accurate and aligned with the expectations of the selection process

Table 66: Annotated application form

Application form question	Guidance
PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION	
<p>Question 1: What category of organisation do you belong to?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Citizen Energy Community or Renewable Energy Community as defined by EU Directives, or similar entity (<i>e.g. Sustainable Energy Communities in Ireland, or Local Energy Communities in the Netherlands</i>) ○ Group of citizens (informally or formally organised), such as homeowners association, neighbourhood collective, community group, etc. ○ Small enterprise as defined in EU Recommendation 2003/361/EC (i.e. employing fewer than 50 full-time equivalent staff and with a annual turnover below €10 million). ○ Small non-governmental or non-profit organisation, including social economy actor (e.g. cooperative, association) (<i>other than legally established energy communities and groups of citizens</i>). ○ Local public authority at the Local Administrative Unit (LAU) level, such as municipality or commune, including legally recognised grouping or association of local authorities (such as intercommunal structures), provided they operate at the LAU level or below. ○ Other 	<p>Select the category of organisation to which you belong to, and answer the subsequent questions about your organisation.</p> <p>If you are an energy community or a group of citizen that is legally established as a small non-profit organisation also established, please select the first category that applies. In case you find that none of the categories apply, please select 'Other' and clearly explain what organisation you represent.</p>
<p>Question 2: Briefly describe the main objectives of your organisation</p>	<p><i>Open text (500 characters max)</i></p>
<p>Question 3: Are you applying as a single organisation or as a group with other organisations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Single application ○ Grouped application 	<p>You can apply jointly with other eligible organisations to receive technical assistance as a group. If you choose this option, please indicate it here. For a grouped application, it is essential to identify a lead organisation. The lead will coordinate with CEAH and ensure smooth collaboration among all participating organisations.</p>
<p>Question 4: What type of organisations are part of your grouped application?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Citizen Energy Community or Renewable Energy Community as defined by EU Directives, or similar entity (<i>e.g. Sustainable Energy Communities in Ireland, or Local Energy Communities in the Netherlands</i>) 	<p>If you are submitting a grouped application, you should indicate which other types of eligible organisations are part of your group, and specify their names. In case you find that none of the categories apply, please select 'Other' and clearly explain what category of organisation it is.</p>

- Group of citizens (informally or formally organised), such as homeowners association, neighbourhood collective, community group, etc.
- Small enterprise as defined in EU Recommendation 2003/361/EC (i.e. employing fewer than 50 full-time equivalent staff and with a annual turnover below €10 million)
- Small non-governmental or non-profit organisation, including social economy actor (e.g. cooperative, association) (*other than legally established energy communities and groups of citizens*).
- Local public authority at the Local Administrative Unit (LAU) level, such as municipality or commune, including legally recognised grouping or association of local authorities (such as intercommunal structures), provided they operate at the LAU level or below.
- Other

Question 5: Which types of stakeholders are represented through your application?

- Natural persons, citizens
- Local authorities (incl. municipalities)
- Government agencies
- Private energy companies (including energy suppliers, energy utilities and energy service companies (ESCO))
- Public energy companies (including energy suppliers, energy utilities and energy service companies (ESCO))
- Energy communities
- Small companies
- Medium-sized companies
- Large companies
- Institutional investors
- State bank
- Commercial banks
- Universities
- Schools
- NGOs
- Housing cooperatives and social housing providers
- Farmers
- Foundations
- Others (please specify)

Here we expect you to indicate the type of stakeholders that are involved or represented in your organisation(s). Please consider all the members and partners of your organisation or group of organisations.

E.g. you are an energy community, and your members include: individuals, SMEs, local authorities and one university. All of those should be included in your response.

In which Member State is your organisation/are your organisations registered or located?

Drop down list of the EU 27 Member States.

Question 7: Please provide the contact details of the main contact person for this application.

- Full name
- Role in citizen energy project
- Email address
- Phone number (please include country code)

This person will act as the main point of contact for the CEAH team. They will receive updates on the application results and, if selected, coordinate technical assistance with the appointed expert(s) throughout 2026. We therefore recommend providing the contact details of someone who

has a coordinating role in your citizen energy project, is generally available, and plans to remain involved in the project for the medium to long term.

PART II: DESCRIPTION OF YOUR CITIZEN ENERGY PROJECT	
<p>Question 8: What is the main role of your organisation(s) in relation to citizen energy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are implementing a citizen energy project or initiative (e.g. developing, managing or operating a local energy project, citizen dialogues or renewable energy sharing) ○ We are promoting or enabling citizen energy initiatives in our community or territory (e.g. providing support, capacity building, facilitation) 	
<p>Question 9: What is the name of your citizen energy project or the project(s) you are supporting?</p>	<p><i>Open text (200 characters max)</i></p>
<p>Question 10: Please provide the weblink to a public website or page of your project or initiative if available</p>	<p><i>Open text (200 characters max)</i></p>
<p>Question 11: Where is your citizen energy project located?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Within one EU country ○ It is a cross-border project 	
<p>Question 12: In which EU Member State(s) is your project or initiative located?</p>	<p><i>Drop down list of the EU 27 Member States.</i></p>
<p>Question 13: Please indicate post code and name of location(s) (e.g. commune, village, city)</p>	<p><i>Open text (200 characters max)</i></p>
<p>Question 14: In what type of area would you say your project is located?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Urban area ○ Rural area ○ Both 	<p>Note that the CEAH aims to equally support initiatives located in urban and rural areas.</p>
<p>Question 15: Which activities are involved in your project?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Production for selling to the market ○ Renewable energy self-consumption (individual) ○ Collective self-consumption at building level ○ Energy sharing (beyond building-level) ○ Peer-to-peer energy trading ○ Energy storage ○ Aggregation of energy resources ○ Demand response / flexibility services ○ Energy distribution ○ Heating and cooling (individual or collective) ○ E-mobility (electric vehicles, charging infrastructure, etc.) ○ Energy efficiency services ○ Retail energy supply ○ Education and training activities 	<p>These activities must be part of your current operations or planned developments You can select multiple activities.</p>

- Energy dialogues / climate and energy panels
- Collective purchase actions (e.g. joint procurement of solar panels)
- Support or inclusion of energy poor and vulnerable households
- Other (please specify)

Question 16: Which technology or technologies do you use or intend to use in your project?

- Energy efficiency
- Flexible household devices
- Solar
- Onshore wind
- Offshore wind
- Hydropower
- Geothermal
- Biofuels
- Heat pump
- Electric vehicles and charging stations
- Storage
- Batteries
- District heating & cooling
- Building renovations
- Other (please specify)

These technologies must be part of your current operations or planned developments.
You can select multiple activities.

Question 17: Please provide a general description of your citizen energy project

Open text (1500 characters max)

In your response, we expect you to briefly describe:

- The key objectives of the initiative;
- The local context in which it operates and the local challenges that the project aims to address;
- How decisions are made within your organisation for the project implementation;
- The potential of your project to be scaled up or replicated in other contexts.

Question 18: How does your project (plan to) engage citizens and promote inclusiveness?

Open text (1000 characters max)

In your response, please provide an overview of your strategy for stakeholder engagement and outreach as well as any inclusive practices or measures that you have or intend to put in place to increase gender diversity or involve vulnerable members of you community (energy poor or vulnerable households)

<p>Question 19: What impact do you expect your project to have on citizens and the wider community?</p>	<p><i>Open text (1000 characters max)</i></p> <p>In your response, please describe the positive changes your project will bring for citizens / the wider community. You may want to cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Direct benefits (e.g., improved services, cost savings, access to clean energy, better infrastructure). ○ Social impact (e.g., increased participation, inclusion, empowerment, skills development). ○ Environmental impact (e.g., reduced emissions, improved local environment). ○ Long-term effects (e.g., stronger community networks, resilience, quality of life improvements).
<p>Question 20: Which of the following categories best describes the stage of your project?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advanced initiative: Your project is already operational or close to completion, with a clear structure and activities underway. ○ Developing initiative: Your project is in preparation, with a planning documents (such as business plan) in preparation. Some activities might have started to be implemented. ○ Starting initiative: Your project is at the concept stage with limited formal planning so far. It is possibly supported by a vision document and early actions such as stakeholder engagement meetings. 	<p>CEAH supports a wide range of citizen energy initiatives at different stages of development. Your response to this question will not affect your score but simply helps the CEAH coordination team to ensure that initiatives at all stages of maturity receive support through CEAH.</p>
<p>Question 21: Please describe your project implementation plan and timeline</p>	<p><i>Open text (1500 characters max)</i></p> <p>Your answer should include key activities that have already been carried out as well as/or those planned for the future. Please also mention whether you have developed or plan to develop planning or strategic documents (such as vision documents, business plans, implementation strategies, funding strategy, etc).</p>
<p>Question 22: Has your project received support (advisory or financial) from other EU projects, calls, or national programmes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes - If so, please briefly describe the type of support received (e.g. funding, technical assistance), the name of the programme, which <u>specific activities</u> of your project were supported, and when this support was provided. 	<p>Important note: Receiving previous support does <u>not</u> make your project ineligible for CEAH. The key requirement is that the request for the CEAH technical assistance must concern a distinct activity that is not already covered by other funding.</p>

- o No

If you indicate that funding or support has been received, your request will be assessed carefully to confirm that the proposed technical assistance relates to a non-overlapping activity.

Question 23: Does your project have the support of a local or public authority (e.g. municipality)?

Open text (max 700 characters)

Support must be directly related to your project’s activities and should be demonstrated through a form of evidence, such as a letter of intent, membership, email confirmation, or other relevant documentation which you are able to upload on EUSurvey.

PART III: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS

Question 24: Why does your citizen energy project require external technical support?

Open text (max 1500 characters)

Please specify your concrete needs and the specific challenges that you aim to address.

Question 25: What type(s) of assistance do you wish to receive from the CEAH experts?

Drop down menu of CEAH technical assistance services

We recommend being as focused and specific as possible when selecting the technical assistance you need. This will help us match you with the right expert(s). Your choice should align with the needs described in the previous question.
Selecting multiple support categories will not necessarily increase the amount of support you receive.

Question 26: Please specify which specific activities or aspects of your project is concerned for each category of support requested

For each of the support category selected, open text (max 300 characters)

Question 27: How do you expect the requested assistance to support your citizen energy project?

Open text (max 1500 characters)

Please describe how the technical assistance will help your project succeed. Be specific and link your answer to the type of support you have requested. Also outline the expected outcomes of receiving this assistance.

Question 28: Please describe how your organisation plans to collaborate and work effectively with the technical assistance expert(s) and the CEAH coordination team.

Open text (max 1000 characters)

Please describe your approach to communication and information sharing with the CEAH coordination team and technical assistance experts. Indicate who from your organisation will be involved, including their roles, and explain how you will ensure your

	commitment by dedicating sufficient resources to effective collaboration.
Question 29: What is your preferred language for receiving technical assistance and collaborating with the CEAH expert(s)?	<i>Drop down list of EU 24 official languages</i>
<p>Question 30: We will do our best to match you with an expert who speaks your preferred language. However, if this is not possible, would you be comfortable receiving technical assistance and collaborating in English instead?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No 	<p>CEAH works with an extensive pool of experts to provide technical assistance. However, it may not always be possible to find an expert who meets both your language preference and the specific expertise required. In this context, if you are comfortable receiving technical assistance in English, it increase the chances of matching you with the right expert for your needs.</p> <p>Note that your answer to this question will not influence the decision on your selection.</p>
PART IV: OTHER INFORMATION	
<p>Letter of commitment [Document upload]</p>	You should upload on EUSurvey the signed letter of commitment, using the template provided.
<p>GDPR compliance and privacy statement [Check box]</p>	For your application to be processed, you must confirm that you have read the privacy statement and consent to the processing of personal data as described therein.

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**CITIZEN
ENERGY**
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