

More information about the terms of participation in the call for solutions: Using data to curb energy use

1 Sitra's funding for the project

Sitra funding can cover up to 70 per cent of the costs and expenses of the project. The funding recipient's own contribution is at least 30 per cent.

Funding of about EUR 5,000–15,000 can be granted in the first stage and EUR 20,000–50,000 in the second stage per applicant, depending on the project aims and plan. The maximum amount of funding per individual applicant is EUR 65,000 during the call for solutions.

In both stages, funding will be awarded on the basis of a funding application and its appendices, submitted to Sitra by the specified deadline. To be eligible for funding, the applicant must have concluded and signed a funding agreement with Sitra.

The applicant may participate in the call for solutions by submitting one funding application for each stage of the call. Organisations participating as Sitra's support in the call for funding assessment are not eligible to participate as applicants in the call for solutions.

The funding granted on the basis of the call for funding and a positive funding decision can only be used to cover project costs specified in the monitoring and [cost annex for the funding project](#). Sitra will not reimburse the applicant for application costs or any other funding-related expenses.

2 Companies engaged in economic activities and other parties

When granting funding, Sitra complies with EU rules on state aid. Funding applicants engaged in economic activity within the meaning of EU rules on state aid can only be funded with de minimis aid. So-called ordinary project funding can be granted to funding applicants carrying out non-economic activities.

When taking into account the aim and purpose of the call for solutions, each applicant must be, in principle, eligible to receive Sitra's funding in the form of de minimis aid. Sitra will assess the project's economic nature on the basis of the applicant's funding application.

If the project will be carried out by a company or other entity engaged in an economic activity, the funding will be granted as de minimis aid. The aid will be granted in compliance with the Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid. (Published in Official Journal of the European Union no L 352, 24 December 2013).

Companies or other organisations are entities engaged in an economic activity, regardless of their legal status and the way they are financed. All activities in which goods or services are offered on certain markets are considered to be economic activities. Non-profit organisations may also provide goods and services on the market and are subject to state aid rules.

Each applicant engaged in economic activity must be eligible to receive de minimis aid for at least the amount that the applicant intends to apply from Sitra at the different stages of the call for solutions and in line with the terms and conditions of the call. The maximum amount of funding provided to an applicant by Sitra is EUR 65,000. The exact amount will be determined in the funding agreement to be concluded with the applicant.

If the applicant is deemed to engage in economic activities on the basis of the funding application, the applicant must, at Sitra's request, submit the completed de minimis aid declaration attached to the call for funding to Sitra. The declaration must be submitted in both stages of the call before being granted the funding. With the de minimis aid declaration, the applicant confirms that the value of de minimis aid received by the applicant during the current and the last two tax years, together with the funding from Sitra, does not exceed the threshold of EUR 200,000. The de minimis declaration submitted to Sitra must indicate the amounts of de minimis aid received during the current and last two tax years.

3 Results, their publication and rights to them

Sitra will publish on its website the names of the funding recipient organisations and short descriptions of the projects to be implemented during the different stages of the call. The descriptions will be done on the basis of the information provided on the application forms by the funding recipients.

Sitra will publish on its website descriptions of the results of the projects funded by it. Sitra may draw up the descriptions of the results on the basis of the final reports delivered for the assessment of the best solutions or may publish the final reports as such. The applicant undertakes to communicate about their project and project results in a manner agreed with Sitra and in line with the terms and conditions of the funding agreement.

Sitra is granted the right to use the above mentioned final report as specified in the funding agreement in order to disseminate the project results, ensure the impact of the funded project, and communicate about the project.

The applicant retains ownership of the project results.

The applicant holds or undertakes to obtain the intellectual property rights required for carrying out the project.

The terms and conditions of the funding agreement attached to the call (see section X of the call) will specify in more detail the publication of the project results and intellectual property rights.

4 Application process

The application process involves two stages.

In the first stage, the applicants complete the application form (Webropol), to which they attach a free-form project plan (maximum 2 pages) and a budget. The project plan must indicate, among other things, what the applicant aims to do with the project, how the applicant will do it, and what are the aims and specific desired results of the project.

The budget must be drawn up on the attached [Excel template](#). For the project to be funded by Sitra, the budget must be done taking into account the content of [the monitoring and cost annex](#).

In the second stage of the call, funding is applied for by submitting the funding application to Sitra in accordance with the more detailed instructions provided by Sitra. In the second stage of the call, the solutions selected to continue at the end of the first stage may apply for funding.

The applicant is responsible for the accuracy of the information provided to Sitra and for ensuring that it does not infringe the rights of any third party.

Sitra will assess the funding applications in light of the evaluation criteria and decide which projects to fund. Sitra may also request the opinion of external experts to support the evaluation, but such statements are not binding on Sitra. Sitra will also evaluate and select the top 0–3 solutions from the projects funded in the first stage, which will be eligible to apply for further funding from Sitra on the basis of the final reports submitted by the funding recipients. Sitra will make the evaluations and selections together with external experts as necessary.

5 Selection criteria

Selection criteria:

Sitra will evaluate the applications of the first and second stage of the call for solutions in the light of the following selection criteria:

1. The applicant has the competence required for the solution and previous experience in or a track record of similar projects, as demonstrated by the applicant's project plan.

2. The applicant's solution proposal clearly describes a solution that will help consumers control their energy use or save energy.
3. The applicant can demonstrate with their application that the results of the project are scalable and can be adopted by a wide range of users.
4. The solution proposal is feasible considering the data sources and technical requirements.
5. The solution proposal has novelty value.
6. The solution proposal implements the principles of a fair data economy.
7. The solution proposal is easy to use and people-centric.
8. The solution proposal uses data from either an updated open data source or the user's own data (so-called MyData).
9. The solution proposal is assessed to have an impact on energy consumption. The impact may be related, for example, to energy savings for an individual or household (electricity or heating) or to smoothing out peak consumption.
10. The project plan and budget are realistic in nature.

Sitra prepares an overall assessment concerning the applicant's application documentation and the granting of Sitra's financial support to the project. Sitra may propose the development of some proposals or the merging of two or more proposals.

When selecting a maximum of the three best solutions at the end of the first stage from among the funded projects, Sitra will assess the final reports submitted by the funding recipients in accordance with the selection criteria defined above. In addition, special weight in the selection process will be given to the funding recipient's description of the project's potential for further development. The aim of this is to evaluate whether the project could benefit from additional funding from Sitra.

6 This is not a purchase of a service or other procurement

Sitra funds the beneficiaries selected based on the call for funding subject to the terms and conditions of a positive funding decision and subsequent funding agreement, and therefore project proposals based on which Sitra would purchase or otherwise obtain services from the applicants will be rejected.

7 Public access to documents

In accordance with the Act on the Openness of Government Activities (621/1999), Sitra is entitled to provide information about documents associated with the call for funding, the

funding applicant, the amount of funding, and the funded project, excluding information that is confidential under the Act on the Openness of Government Activities, such as trade secrets, if a request for information or another enquiry is submitted to Sitra under the Act on the Openness of Government Activities.

8 Processing of personal data

Participants in the call for funding are responsible for having the right to provide Sitra with the personal data of their contact persons and other personal data specified in the call for funding for the purpose of implementing the project, and for the accuracy of the data.

The personal data provided in the call for funding will be used for contacts regarding any follow-up co-operation. The personal data collected in the call for funding will be processed in line with [Sitra's privacy policy](#).

The above-mentioned personal data of the contact persons for the organisations chosen as recipients of funding will be processed for preparing and processing the funding agreement.

9 Other terms and conditions

The applicant undertakes to sign the agreement attached to the call for solutions, which, together with attachments, forms part of the terms and conditions of the call for solutions. Only funding agreement sections of little relevance may be changed on an applicant-specific basis.

Sitra has the right to make minor changes and further clarifications to the terms and conditions of the call for solutions. Any changes will be published on the call for funding website. Therefore, participants in the call for funding should monitor the website to take account of any changes.

Sitra reserves the right to suspend the call for funding if the circumstances or conditions prevailing at the time of launching the call have changed to such an extent that Sitra considers implementing it no longer possible or appropriate.

Sitra reserves the right to exclude from the call for funding any company that violates the terms and conditions of the call or applicable legislation or is otherwise considered to be unsuitable for taking part in the call for funding or later, while the project is underway, in the project launched based on it. For example, any company that is subject to a sanction or restriction imposed by the EU or UN shall be considered ineligible.

The organisation's contact person will be informed of the exclusion by e-mail.

In the event of any conflict between these application terms and conditions and other documents/publications relating to the application, the terms and conditions of application specified in this document shall take precedence.