

# EUCF Intensive Days

10 JUNE 2025



## Project Development Assistance

for sustainable energy investments



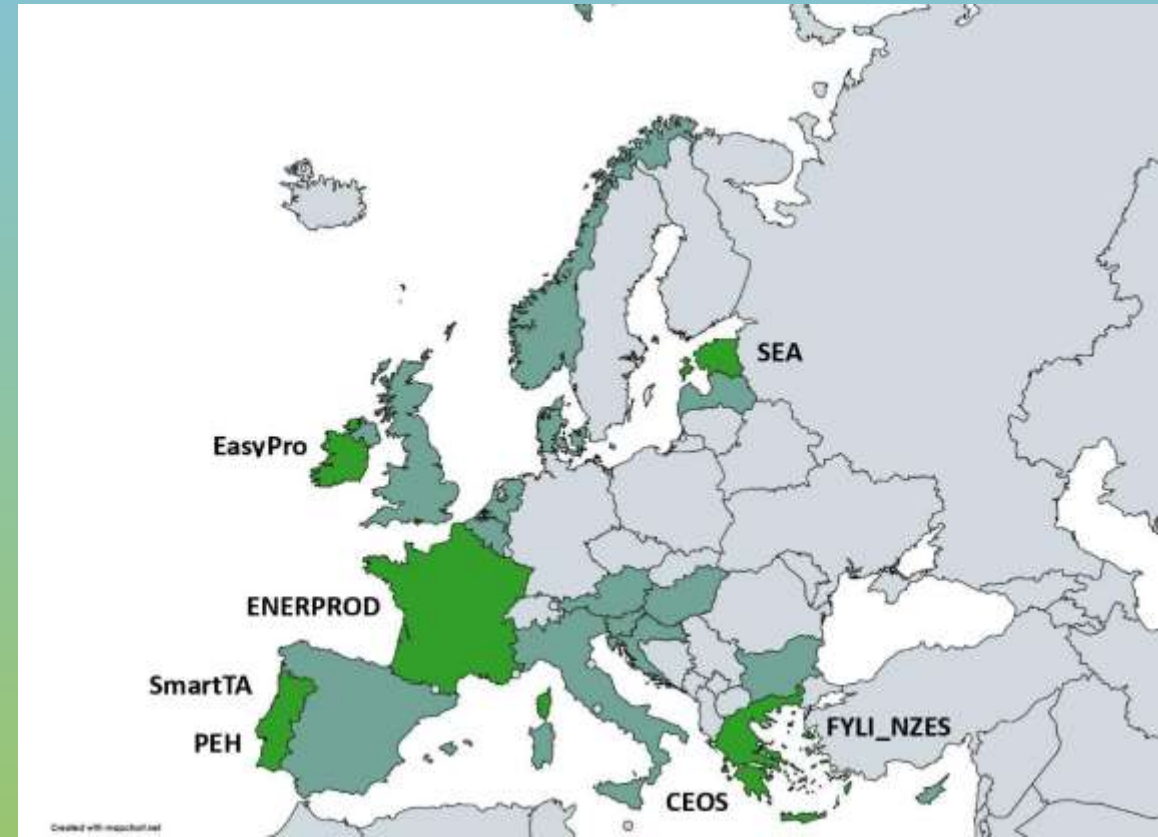
Björn ZAPFEL - Programme Coordination Manager (LIFE Energy + LIFE Climate, CINEA)

# Project Development Assistance (PDA), EIB-ELENA & EUCF

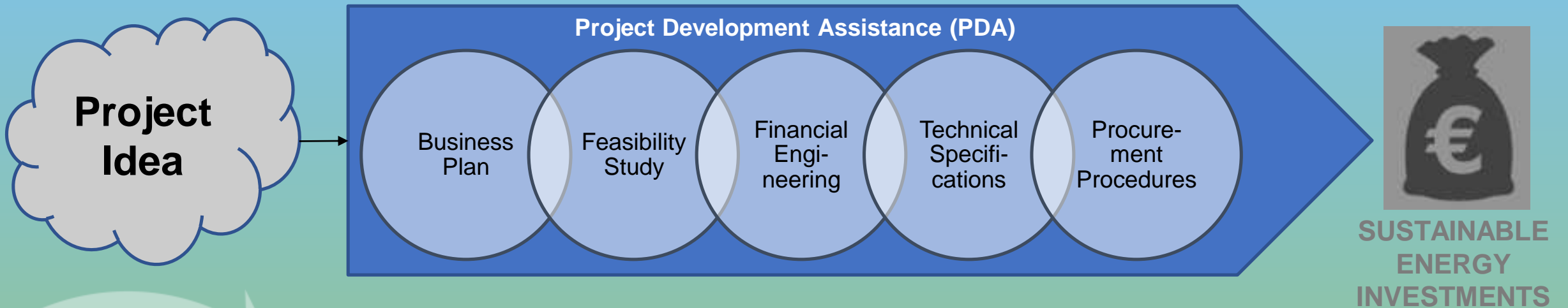
- **Long history:** LIFE CET, Horizon 2020 & IEE
- **Significant pipeline & results**

PDA projects: **71 signed**  
Investment signed: **>900 MEUR**  
Investment expected: **>2 BEUR**  
Leverage: **Ø 1:27** (~ 1:15 - >1:50)

- **Complementarity to EIB-ELENA**
- **EUCF:** Investment concepts => mature starting point



# Project Development Assistance



**Sustainable Energy Investment Pipeline -  
Ambition and Scale**

# Objectives

## ➤ EU's energy and climate targets:

- Significant **sustainable energy investments**
- Leveraging **private capital** (public funds as catalyst)

## ➤ Transition to **decarbonised and clean energy system**:

- **European Green Deal** goals
- **Green Deal Investment Plan** (market demand and uptake of Net-Zero technologies)
- **REPowerEU** plan (phase out EU dependence on fossil fuel imports)

## ➤ **Competitiveness** of European economy



## ➤ Preparation and launch of **ambitious sustainable energy investment pipeline** (energy efficiency and/or renewable energy projects)

## ➤ **Ready-to-finance / bankable projects**:

- Mobilisation of **private investments**
- **Cost-effectiveness** of EU and national public budgetary resources

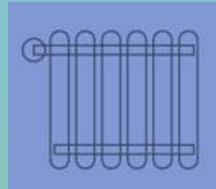
## ➤ Technical, economic & legal **skills / expertise** for **project development & implementation** (project bundling, technical studies, energy audits, assessing financing options, legal advice, tendering procedure preparation, outreach and engagement etc.)

# Public and private project promoters

- Public authorities (incl. groupings)



- Public / private infrastructure operators and bodies



- Energy agencies



- Energy service companies



- Large property owners



- Retail chains



- Services



- Industry



# Target sectors



## BUILDINGS

- Existing residential (incl. rental sector, social housing, district-level renovation approaches)
- Existing non-residential (commercial and public buildings, hospitals, academies, defence facilities)



## DISTRICT HEATING / COOLING NETWORKS

Decarbonisation and modernization (incl. extension of existing networks fully based on low-temperature renewable energy or waste heat)



## INFRA-STRUCTURE

Existing public infrastructure (e.g. water, wastewater, lighting)



## INDUSTRY

Industry, businesses and services (incl. SMEs or industrial clusters), clearly advancing beyond business-as-usual approaches



## RENEWABLES

Renewable energy production by energy communities or other citizen-led initiatives, clearly advancing beyond business-as-usual approaches



## MOBILITY

- Clean and energy efficient urban transport infrastructure
- Low emission urban mobility solutions
- Integration of smart recharging infrastructures in buildings



# Scope

- **Preparation and actual launch of investment pipelines of sustainable energy projects**
- **Within project duration**
- **Ensuring leverage effect**

# Scope

Demonstration of clear **showcase dimension** in delivering innovative solutions to accelerate sustainable energy investments across Europe:

- **Organisational innovation** regarding mobilization and/or structuring of investment programme, setting up e.g.:
  - Facilitation structures, project development units (PDUs) or one-stop-shops (OSSs);
  - Aggregation and bundling / pooling approaches; or
  - Efficient procurement procedures for large-scale portfolios of (mixed) assets

***AND/OR***

# Scope

## ➤ **Financial engineering:**

- Focus: leveraging private investment,
- Including blending public with private financing or improved combination of existing funds.
- Examples:
  - Energy Performance Contracting (EPC);
  - Dedicated financial instruments;
  - Innovative on-bill / on-tax payment schemes;
  - Community-based financing schemes etc.

# Scope

**High ambition**, in particular regarding **energy savings and decarbonisation**, e.g.:

- Deep renovation;
- Nearly zero-energy buildings (nZEB) or zero-emission buildings (ZEB), incl. building-integrated renewables;
- Positive energy buildings or districts;
- Highly energy efficient infrastructure etc.

# Facts and figures

- **Actual launch** of energy efficiency and/or renewable energy **investment programme before the end of the action:**
  - **Leverage ratio: 1:15 / 1:10** (for exclusive investments in residential buildings)
  - **Traceable evidence** (signed work or investment contracts, or similar convincing proof) to be planned and indicated in the proposal
  - **Initially envisaged investment pipeline** to be identified in the proposal
- **Innovative organisational** (facilitation) approach and/or **financing solution** for sustainable energy investment projects with a particular emphasis on private sector funds
- Contribution to **increased skills and capacity** to deliver further sustainable energy investments
- Proposals by **single applicant** or **applicants from a single eligible country** are eligible!
- **Expected project size:** € 1 – 1.5 million

# Impacts + Indicators

**Proposals should demonstrate how project results will contribute to expected impacts.**

➤ Proposals should  
*(as relevant):*

Common indicators

Topic-specific

Activity-specific

1. Address impacts related to **common indicators** for the LIFE-CET subprogramme
  2. Quantify impacts using the provided **topic-specific indicators**
  3. Propose additional indicators which are specific to the proposed activities (**activity-specific**)
- **Quantification** for project end / duration and for 5 years after project end
- Detailed analysis of **starting point**, definition of well-substantiated underlying **assumptions** and establishment of clear causal **links between activity results and expected impacts**

# Impacts



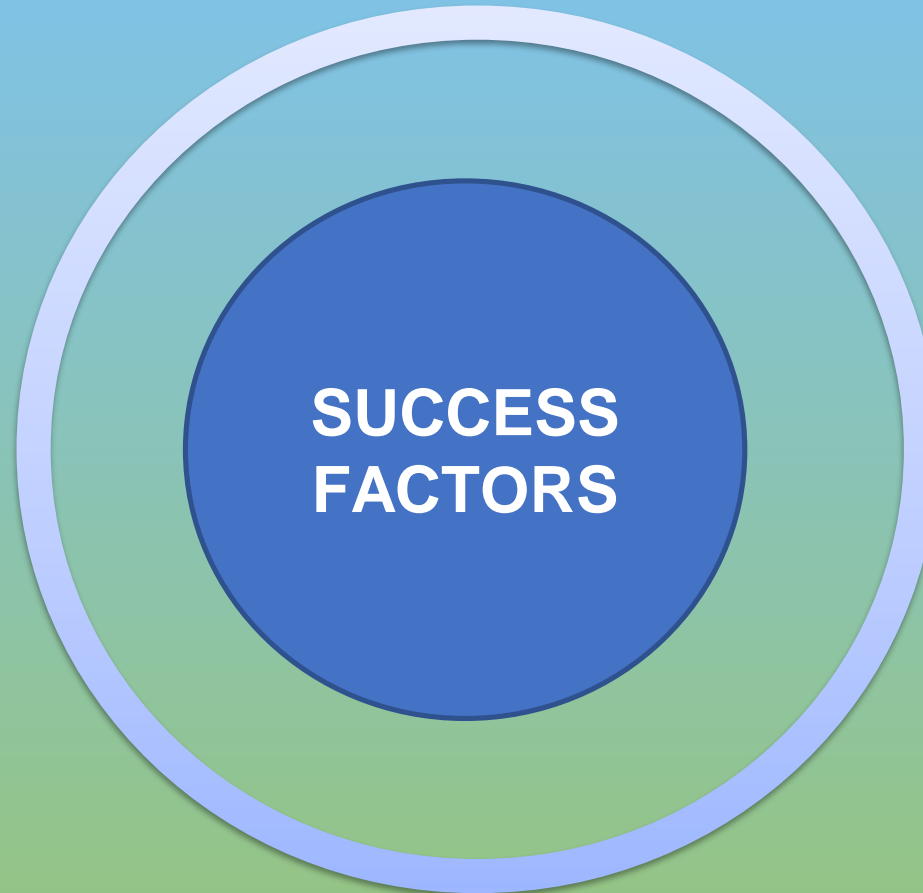
# Key features of successful proposal

## Adequate starting point

(Market) needs addressed and barriers, identified targeted investments, commitment from key stakeholders

## Clear concept

Financial and organisational approaches / options to be operationalised during project duration, steps to reach the planned investments, incl. financial engineering (e.g. EPC), procurement process



## Solid impact

Credible quantitative and qualitative estimations (incl. sound baseline), realistic assumptions, clear focus on monitoring and reporting

## Proven engagement

Engagement of key stakeholders, ex-ante and/or during the project duration, including financial stakeholders and final investment beneficiaries

# Previous PDA projects & EUCF

## Further PDA projects:

### ➤ Previous **Horizon 2020** and **LIFE CET PDA projects** as potential **reference**:

- *Horizon 2020:*

- <https://cordis.europa.eu/>

- *LIFE:*

- Call 2021: <https://europa.eu/!GnTTY3>
- Call 2022: <https://europa.eu/!gvBwDw>
- Call 2023: <https://europa.eu/!gtg7Gr>

### ➤ Implementation of **investment concepts**:

- [European City Facility \(EUCF\)](#)
- *LIFE CET support to heating & cooling networks and industrial clusters etc.*

# LIFE Clean Energy Transition Call 2025



**! Must read:**

→ LIFE CET call document

2025: [https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life-calls-proposals-2025\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life-calls-proposals-2025_en)

**Deadline: 23 September 2025**

**! Must watch** – “Support for applicants”

→ [Info Session for each funding topic](#) and

→ How to submit a (an excellent) proposal!

[https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life/clean-energy-transition\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life/clean-energy-transition_en)



30 years of bringing green ideas to LIFE

# Keep in touch with LIFE



[https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en)

→ **Advice in your country:** LIFE National [Contact Points](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life/history-life/life-contacts/european-national-contact-points_en): [https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life/history-life/life-contacts/european-national-contact-points\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life/history-life/life-contacts/european-national-contact-points_en)

→ **Clean Energy Transition Advice at CINEA:** [CINEA-LIFE-CET@ec.europa.eu](mailto:CINEA-LIFE-CET@ec.europa.eu)

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**Thank you very much!**

