



Council of the European Union  
General Secretariat

**Brussels, 28 November 2025**

**WK 16449/2025 INIT**

**LIMITE**

**COMPET**

**IND**

*This is a paper intended for a specific community of recipients. Handling and further distribution are under the sole responsibility of community members.*

## **WORKING DOCUMENT**

---

**From:** General Secretariat of the Council  
**To:** Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Industry)

---

**Subject:** Presentations by the European Commission : The Role of Industrial Policy in the Green Transition, Resilience and Competitiveness (agenda item 2)  
Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Industry) meeting on 28 November 2025

---



# INNOVATION FUND

Deploying innovative net-zero technologies for climate neutrality

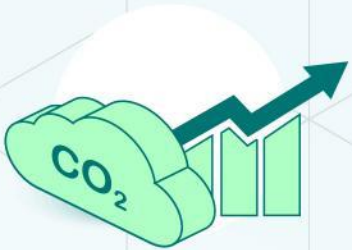
Funded by the EU Emissions Trading System



€40 billion\* available between 2020-2030



grants awarded through regular calls and auctions



avoid GHG emissions, boost competitiveness

## supporting innovation in:



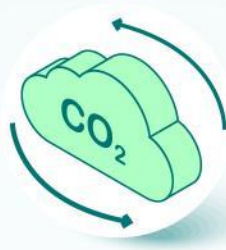
Energy-intensive industries



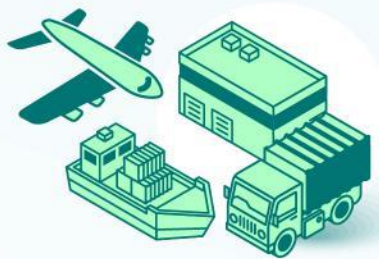
Renewable energy



Energy storage



Carbon capture, use and storage



Net-zero mobility and buildings

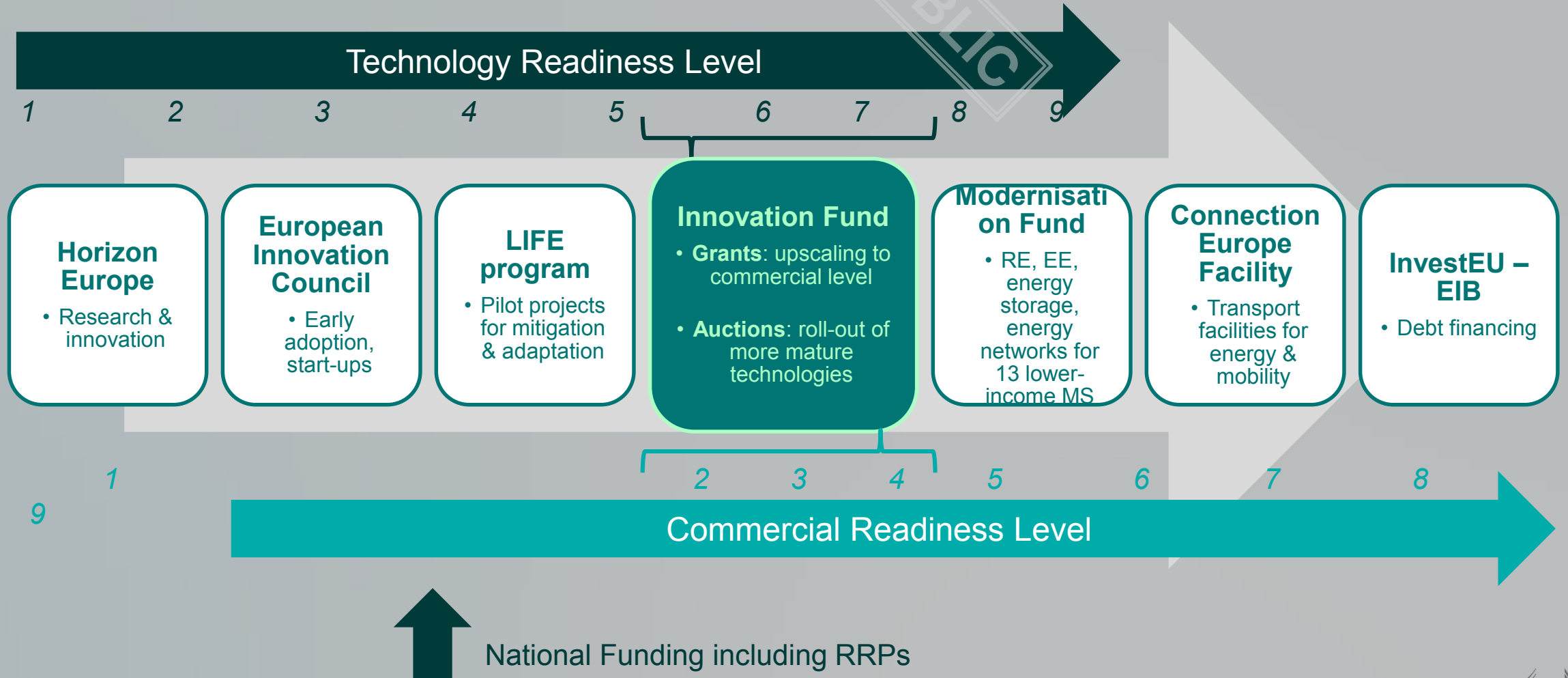
\*based on a carbon price of €75/tonne

# The Innovation Fund supports urgent policy priorities



- **Net-Zero Industry Act:** clean tech manufacturing (€0.7 billion in 2022, €1.4 billion in 2023, 1.7 billion in 2024) – *IF24 Call (dedicated topic) + IF24 Battery*
- **European Hydrogen Bank:** domestic auctions for renewable hydrogen under the Innovation Fund
- **Wind Package:** clean tech manufacturing topic & Project Development Assistance (PDA)
- **Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP):** STEP Seal for funded projects
- **Industrial Carbon Management (ICM) Strategy:** support CCUS deployment since 2020
- **Clean Industrial Deal:** Innovation Fund is central tool to support investments

# A targeted project portfolio



# Innovation Fund in a nutshell

Ongoing projects + Projects from IF24 calls\*



**276** projects

192 ongoing +  
84 under GAP



**~€15.8** billion

€11.1 billion allocated  
+ €4.6 billion under GAP



**28**  
countries



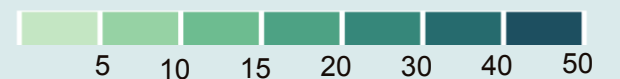
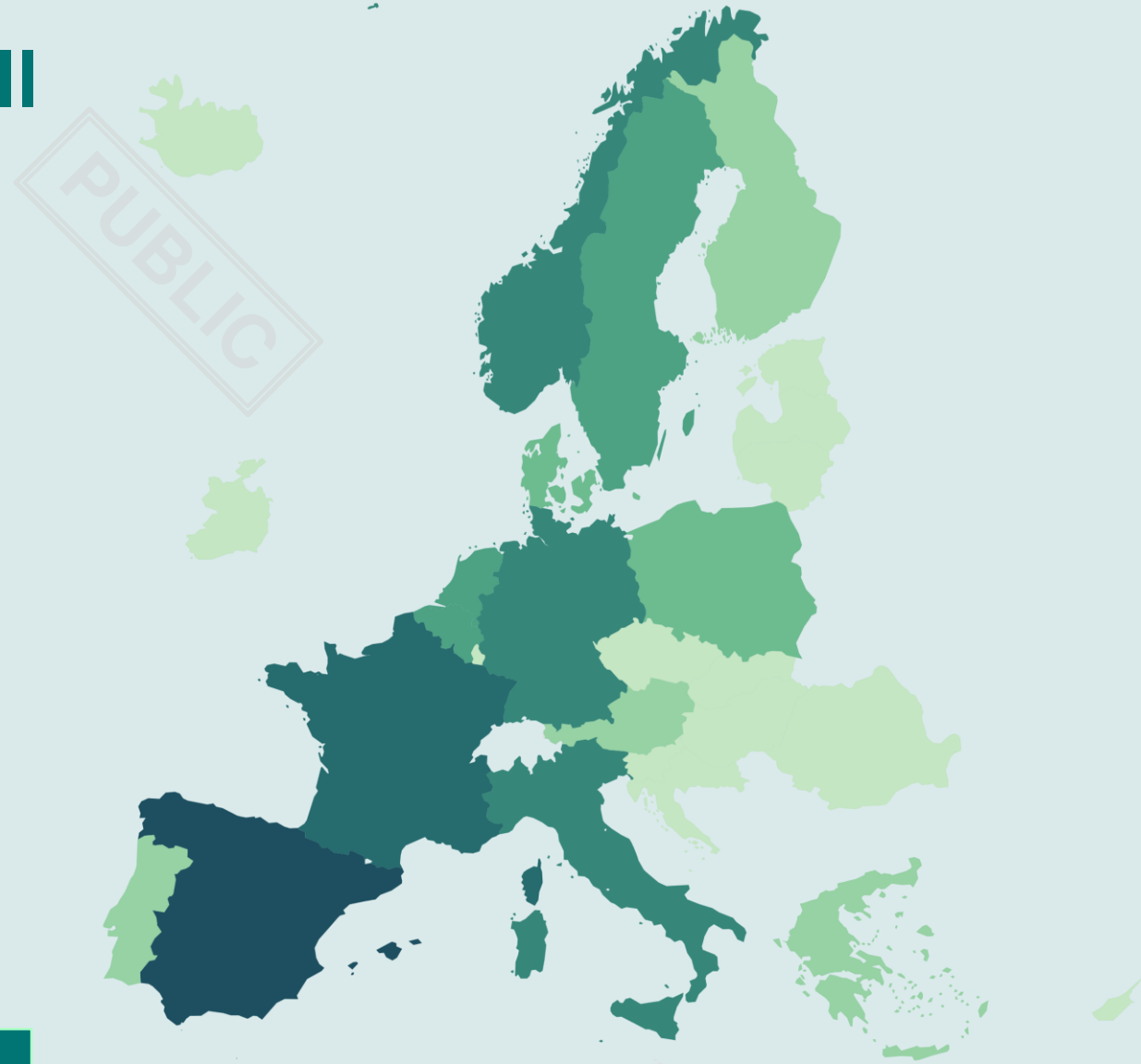
**~1 160** MtCO<sub>2</sub>e

to be avoided



**23**  
sectors

New country in portfolio: Romania



Number of projects

\*Projects ongoing as of 30/09/2025 + projects from IF24 calls [IF24-RFNBO-AUC + IF24 Batt + IF24 NZT]

\*\* GHG emissions avoidance achieved by projects with reported full-year operational data (5)



# INNOVATION FUND

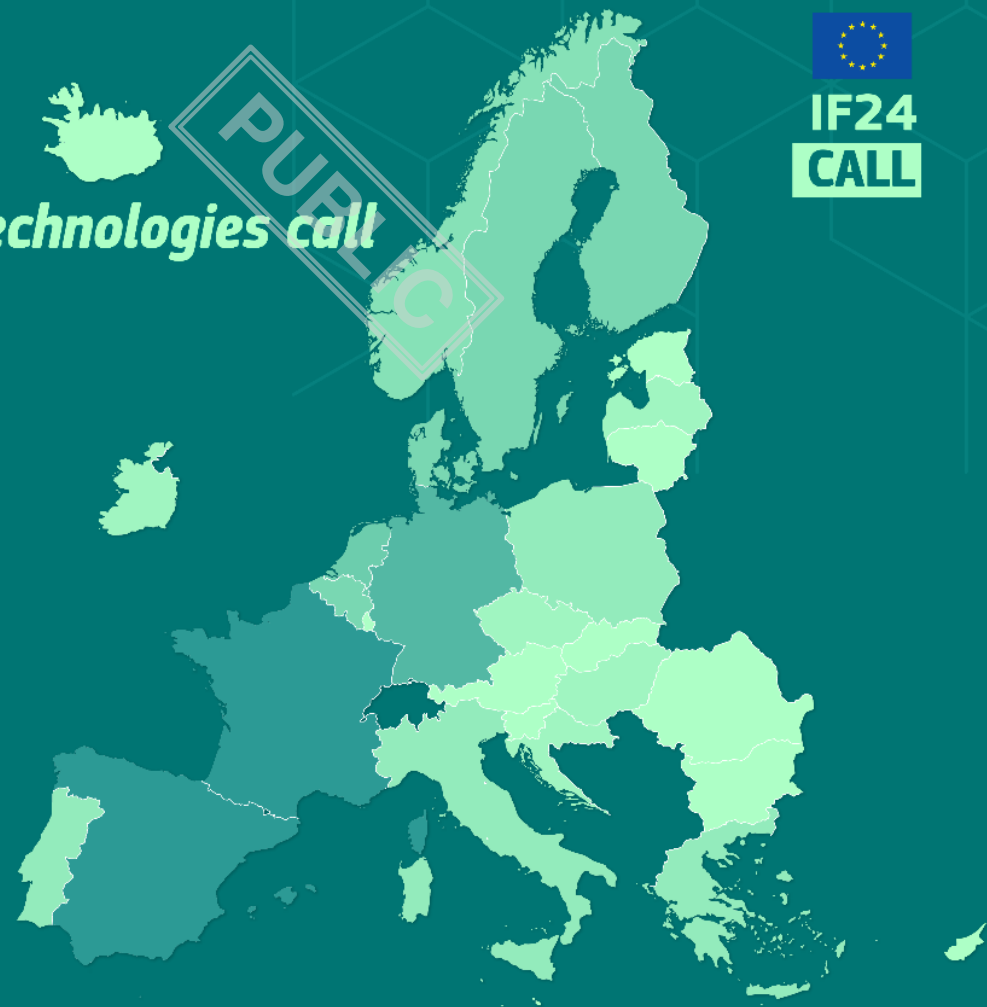
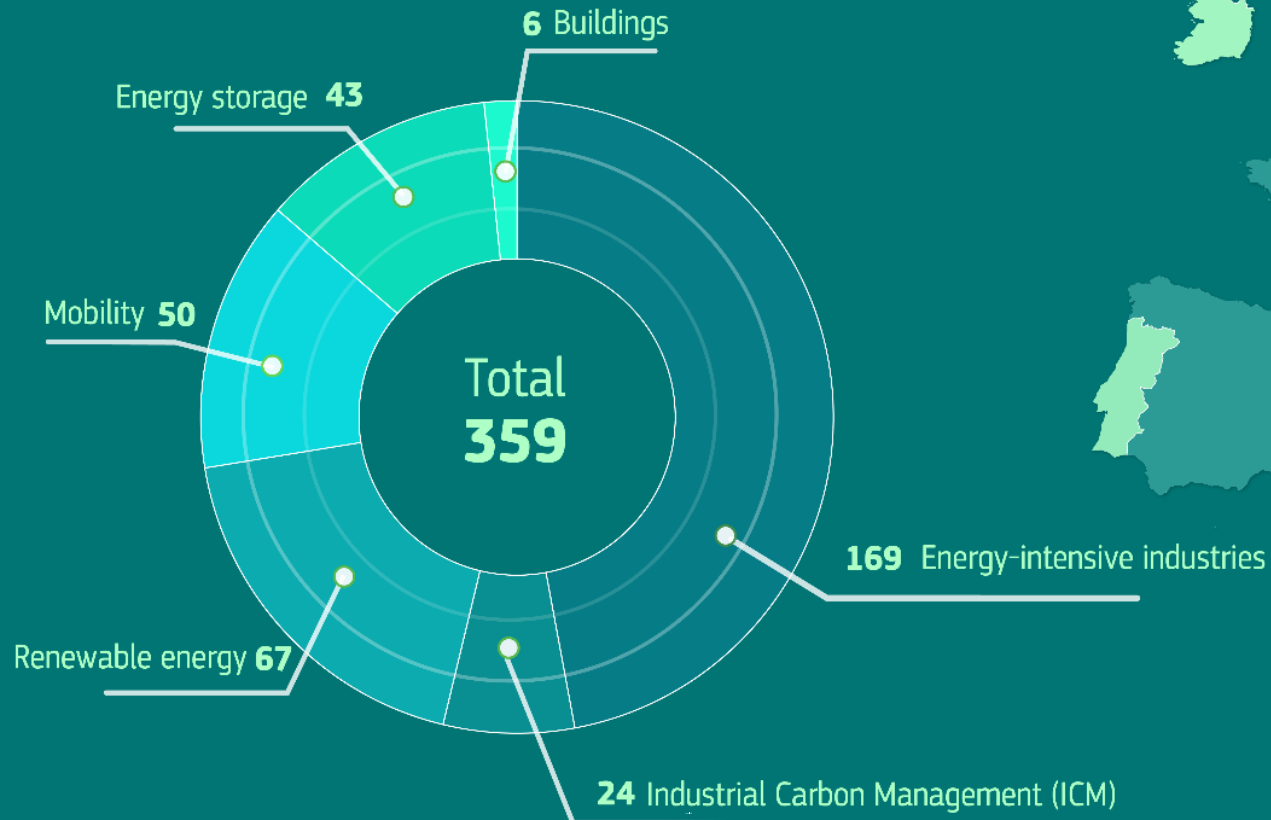
Funded by the EU Emissions Trading System



IF24  
CALL

## Applications to the 2024 Net-Zero Technologies call

### Applications per category



# INNOVATION FUND

*Funded by the EU Emissions Trading System*



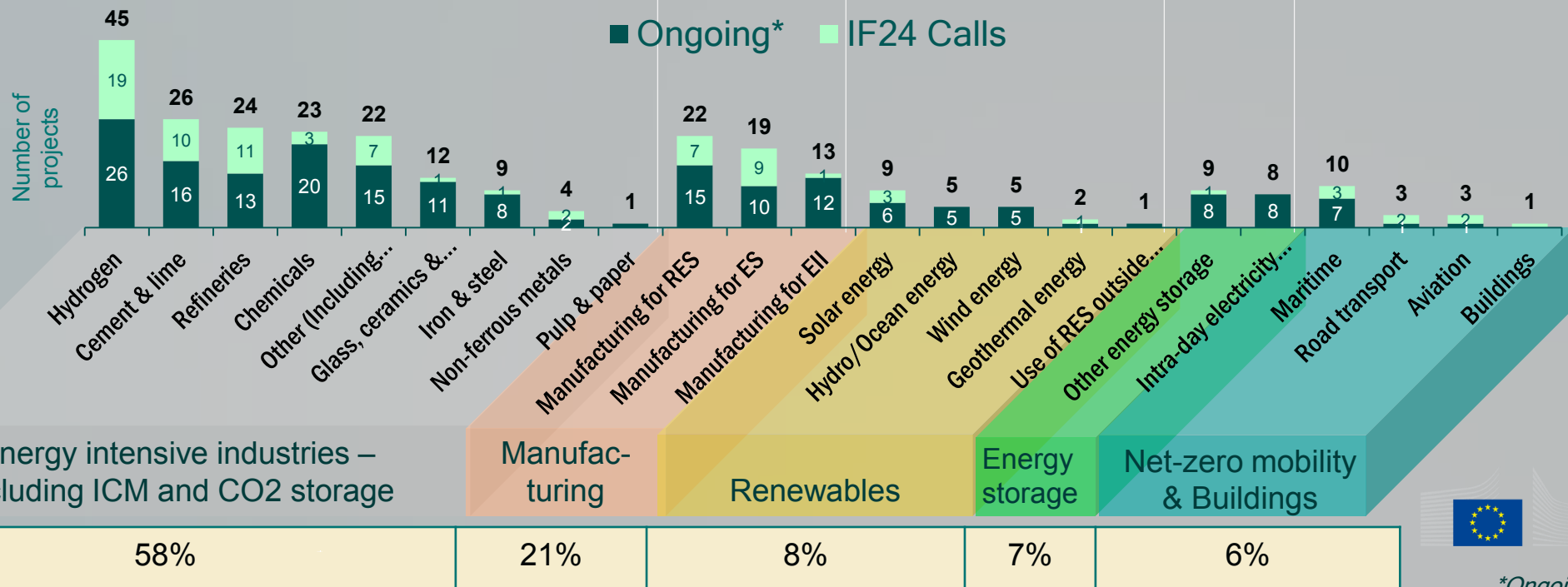
**IF24  
CALL**

**61** PROJECTS  
SELECTED  
**FOR GRANTS**  
in 18 European countries



# Innovation Fund projects by category

- **Energy intensive industries:** 35 projects from cement & lime, construction materials, chemicals, iron & steel, non-ferrous metals and refineries sectors (€1.69 billion support)
  - **Industrial carbon management:** 6 CO2 capture facilities on cement plants and 2 on ships, 1 transport vessel, 2 infrastructure projects, 5 projects on utilising captured CO2 in fuels.
- **Clean-tech manufacturing:** 12 projects on components, materials and products (€775 million support)
- **Net-zero mobility:** 7 e-fuel production supported with €404 million; 1 on aircraft electrification and 1 on hybrid H2/electric propulsion and 3 projects for Maritime with carbon capture (2) and wind/electric propulsion (1)



# To stimulate investment into net-zero technologies, the Net Zero Industry Act focuses on:

Permitting	Investment	Markets	Skills	Innovation	Governance
Streamlined procedures and transparent information on process	Crowding-in private investments in net-zero strategic projects by Commission and Member States	Sustainability & resilience criteria in auctions, public procurement and public support measures	Skills for quality jobs through Net-Zero Industry Academies	Regulatory Sandboxes to promote innovation and to test innovative net-zero technologies in a controlled environment for a limited amount of time	Net-Zero Europe Platform as a reference body for the Commission to coordinate actions jointly with Member States including international partnerships
One stop shop			Credentials for skills transparency, transferability & cross-border mobility		
Predictable deadlines, incl. for gigafactories	Net-Zero Industry Europe Platform to advise on financing of projects	CO2 injection capacity for carbon dioxide capture and storage markets			

# Demand-side measures

## Access to Markets

Examples of early (partial) implementation

 Procurement

 Auctions

 Support schemes

Mandatory as of January 2026

