

Clean energy for EU islands Call for Application of Interest for 30 Renewable Islands by 2030

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<https://clean-energy-islands.ec.europa.eu> | info@euislands.eu

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Glossary

100% RES island	The 100% RES (Renewable Energy Sources) island is a vision of an island where all energy locally produced (electricity, heat or fuel) comes from renewable energy sources and all energy consumed (electricity, heating/cooling or fuel for transport) on the island also originates from renewable energy sources.
Technical assistance	Support provided by the secretariat directly to the 30 islands to further advance their clean energy transition towards 100% RES islands. Support includes among others: preparation of CETA, regulatory analysis or pre-feasibility study for a specific sector or a project, feasibility studies, financing plans for specific projects, support with tender specifications and/or processes, participation in topic specific workshops, support for stakeholder engagement.
Secretariat	The secretariat acts as a platform for the Clean energy for EU islands initiative. The secretariat exchanges best practices, provides dedicated capacity building and advisory services to islands, and to advises the European Commission on policy and regulatory issues for clean energy transition on islands. The secretariat furthermore supports the implementation of the cooperation structure of the Memorandum of Split.
Application form	The form in EUSurvey that candidates must use to apply for technical assistance from the secretariat.
Island transition team	Public authorities, civil society organisations, energy cooperatives, and other stakeholders that represent the island when getting support from the secretariat and under the trajectory agreement.
Island trajectory	The individual trajectory which reflects the island's conditions and potential that will be defined in an agreement as a guiding document to lead towards the vision of 100% RES islands.
Trajectory agreement	The contract (cfr. template) between the island transition team and the secretariat in which the island agrees to cooperate with the secretariat with a joint commitment to identify, develop and implement projects under the technical assistance.
Baseline situation	The existing situation on the ground prior to receiving assistance. The baseline situation takes account of the island's specific context, potential, opportunities, challenges, and priorities.
Explore, Shape, Act	The central methodology of the support under technical assistance to cover ideas and projects in all stages of the clean energy transition.
Letter of commitment	Letter (cfr. template) signed by public authorities, civil society organisations, or energy cooperatives who individually and explicitly state their dedication to the support for technical assistance through being part of the island transition team.
Declaration of honour	Applicants for technical assistance submit such a declaration assuring their compliance with all EU Norms and Regulations. This includes the absence of situations of exclusion as listed in Article 136(1) of the EU Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046). Template can be found here
Letter of support	Letter (cfr. template) signed by civil society organisations, public sector agencies, businesses or academia that explicitly support the island in their trajectory.
National experts	Experts on the local level of the island's Member State that closely collaborate with the secretariat.
Regional partner	National organisations which are partners within the secretariat and are close to the island communities.
Follower island	Islands that can join the Clean energy for EU islands initiative for a specific period of time on one or more topics, under the secretariat's Follower Programme. Insights gathered from the 30 exemplary islands will be disseminated extensively among a broad range of follower islands, serving as invaluable guidance on their individual pathway towards a carbon-neutral future.

List of abbreviations

EU	European Union
CETA	Clean Energy Transition Agenda
DSO	Distribution System Operator
E&S	Environmental and Safety standards
EU	European Union
OCT	Overseas Countries and Territories
OMR	Outermost Region
RES	Renewable Energy Sources
SECAP	Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan
TSO	Transmission System Operator

1 The Clean energy for EU islands secretariat

1.1 Context

The Clean energy for EU islands secretariat was set up in 2018 by the European Commission in cooperation with the European Parliament. Between 2018 and 2020, the secretariat functioned as a pilot project supporting the EU-wide community of islands in their efforts to transition to sustainable energy and to reduce energy consumption.

The core of the initiative was the [Clean Energy Transition Agenda \(CETA\)](#), which is the recommended process for a solid and inclusive energy transition on the islands. By drafting a CETA, island communities collectively define their decarbonisation vision on the energy system as well as elaborate pathways to reach it.

Following the signature of the Memorandum of Split in 2020, the second phase of the secretariat was launched in 2021 and ran for two years. The second phase built on the results of the pilot years and structured the transition support based on the methodology “Explore. Shape. Act”. Since the start of the Clean energy for EU islands secretariat, 76 islands have engaged with the secretariat, half of which have concluded a Clean Energy Transition Agenda by the end of Phase II. During Phase II, the secretariat provided direct technical assistance to more than 40 island projects, ranging from regulatory advice for the involvement of local communities in the implementation of RES (Renewable Energy Sources) projects, to analysis of technical challenges for the electrification of marine transport and ports to guidance on financing specific island projects. Moreover, the Secretariat engaged with national, regional and local stakeholders in Member States to prepare the regulatory inventory and identify priority regulatory barriers to a clean energy transition on the islands in seven Member States. As a result, the secretariat in collaboration with national experts proposed recommendations for overcoming those barriers. Technical assistance and regulatory analysis provided a clear view of the challenges that islands are facing in their clean energy transition. Hence, Phase III is aimed at addressing those challenges.

1.2 Objectives of the secretariat in Phase III

In Phase III, the emphasis shifts further to developing and finalising a set of investment-ready and bankable projects and finding financing for those projects. The aim is to technically support 30 islands on their path to becoming 100% RES islands by 2030 and to disseminate the lessons learned to a wide group of follower islands. The 30 islands will thus be used as guiding examples for other islands on their path to carbon-neutral future.

Depending on the level of advancement and needs of the selected islands, the secretariat will assist islands in the design, preparation and implementation of decarbonisation plans for the energy system, building on the methodology developed and tested in the previous phases. It will support islands to advance projects to implementation, through technical assistance and organisational support. The secretariat will intensively assist 30 pioneer islands and involve many follower islands through workshops and webinars, allowing peer-to-peer learning from frontrunners or more advanced islands.

In addition to the technical assistance, the secretariat will also carry out a study on best practices on connection policies and management of energy systems under conditions of non-synchronised generation in the non-connected islands. It will manage and, where appropriate, further develop the

already created platform of exchange of practice for islands' stakeholders involved in designing and implementing clean energy projects, as well as provide dedicated capacity building, technical assistance and advisory services. It will maintain and, where appropriate, further develop the Clean energy for EU islands website, including an online platform, mapping EU initiatives and projects relevant for the de-carbonisation of islands (BRIDGE, NESOI, HFC taskforce, etc). It will also organise annual Island forums to broaden EU islands network, bring together concerned Member States, representatives of islands, academic institutions, international and civil society organisations, and private sector stakeholders including investors, to share best practices in financial and regulatory tools, promote best available technologies and showcase concrete projects examples to take action on the ground.

2 Technical assistance: 30 renewable energy islands for 2030

During the third phase, the Clean energy for EU islands secretariat aims at supporting and showcasing a pathway of actions and projects ready for funding to enable **100% renewable energy by 2030 in 30 EU islands**. The comprehensive technical support package is offered to a total of 30 selected islands over a period of 3 years.

A call for applications is launched on the 8th of June 2023, from which 30 islands will be selected. The deadline for applications is 6 September 2023. This guide explains how to apply and what are the next steps.

In this section, a description is given of what the technical assistance offered to the 30 islands may consist of. In the next section, the process is explained of how islands can apply for assistance and how their applications are evaluated. In annex, the application form is given that the island needs to submit online.

Note: In this guide, when the term “island” is used, it can both refer to an individual island or a group of islands.

2.1 Why should islands aim towards becoming 100% RES islands?

The EU is striving to become carbon-neutral by 2050¹. To achieve this goal, many actions have been initiated and ambitious goals set, requiring transition towards a more decentralised, digitised and decarbonised energy system. Diversification and use of locally available energy sources are key to energy security. [The Green Deal](#) provides the basis to foster consumer centred energy transition, ensuring citizens are engaged in all steps of the energy transition. In 2022 [RePowerEU](#) further enforced the need to efficiently consume energy, produce clean energy from locally available renewable sources and diversify the energy sources used with increasing the renewable energy share in energy mix to 45% by 2030.

¹ EU 2050 long-term strategy ([Link](#))

Achieving carbon neutrality requires changes in all sectors - from public to industry, transport and residential sectors. The changes are related not only to energy savings and renewable energy sources, but also to awareness and real-time monitoring of energy consumption, management of energy generation and demand, requiring flexible energy systems and engagement of various stakeholders in the decision-making process and investments.

European islands, as part of the EU, also strive for a carbon-neutral future and for energy security. Energy transition provides an opportunity to engage local stakeholders in the development of the island and its energy system and jointly decide on the use of local resources. While most islands are currently dependent on the import of fossil fuels, they are rich in local renewable energy sources such as solar, wind etc. Their abundance of renewable energy sources provides an opportunity to make a rapid and complete transformation to clean energy – and set an example for the mainland in the process. A transition to 100% RES islands provides many benefits and opportunities including:

- Decarbonisation and a cleaner environment, crucial for the quality of life on the islands and economic development;
- Development of local generation facilities, increasing energy security and the need for local workforce;
- Participation in ownership of renewable energy generation, increasing benefits to local stakeholders;
- Involvement in the energy transition, increasing capacity of local stakeholders, etc.

While benefits are numerous and build on each other, the transition path is challenging and requires great determination and collaboration among local stakeholders with a common vision for a carbon-neutral future. At the same time, many European islands are small and their energy systems are isolated, creating significant challenges both in capacity, expertise and financial terms. The Clean energy for EU islands secretariat has been created to help the islands with this process.

2.2 What it means to be a 100% RES island by 2030

European islands vary widely in terms of their geography (climate, resources, size, distance from the mainland, etc.), and their energy systems and needs (electrical interconnections, transport needs, as well as heating and cooling needs, industries on the island, etc.). However, all islands can aim to be carbon neutral and at the same time maintain and even improve their local economy and habitability conditions. Given that the European Union aims to become carbon neutral, the islands can be guiding examples of how this can be done, considering local challenges and needs.

The “100% RES island by 2030” is a vision of an island where all energy locally produced (electricity, heat or fuel) comes from renewable energy sources and all energy consumed (electricity, heating/cooling or fuel for transport) on the island also originates from renewable energy sources. To achieve such ambitious goals, switching to renewables must be combined with measures to produce, transport and use energy in an efficient manner. It will also be crucial to involve island stakeholders to make sure that local priorities, challenges and needs are addressed.

Although islands are often not isolated in their energy consumption, especially when it comes to transport, the aim of reaching carbon neutrality and being a 100% RES island can still be achieved through joint measures and providing local infrastructure to foster such changes². Analysis of the island's energy system, including its total energy consumption and generation, is part of the process of preparation for a Clean Energy Transition Agenda (CETA) and is described in detail in the [Methodological handbook](#). It addresses the concept of shared use of transport and electricity.

Every island, no matter how little or how advanced it is in the energy transition, can aspire to that vision and start the journey to becoming fully renewable. It is clear that in order to get there, it will be essential to collaborate with many stakeholders on the island and on the mainland. Few islands have succeeded in becoming fully renewable energy islands, and some are getting closer. The pioneer island of Samsø serves as our guiding example for 100% RES island, an example of ambition, planning and implementation.

This call invites applications from islands aiming for a carbon-neutral future and trying to find an optimal path to become a 100% RES island by 2030.

By signing the trajectory agreement to a 100% RES island by 2030, the island agrees to cooperate with the secretariat to identify, develop and implement projects which bring the island closer to the vision of becoming a 100% RES island.

Although signing the trajectory agreement does not legally bind the island to achieve 100% RES by 2030, it does represent a commitment of an island to develop crucial and impactful projects, identified in the trajectory agreement, and find optimal ways to deliver these projects.

By applying for the call, an island, represented by an island transition team, accepts the vision of 100% RES islands as a guiding principle for its energy transition.

2.3 What does the technical assistance consist of?

The technical assistance is aimed at supporting 30 islands to become fully renewable energy-powered islands by 2030. The focus of the technical assistance is on maximising implementation of projects contributing to 100% RES, removing potential barriers and/or bringing missing elements to ensure maximum implementation.

2.3.1 An island's unique trajectory to 100% renewable energy

For each of the 30 selected islands, an individual trajectory will be defined. This will be a unique trajectory that starts from the island's baseline situation and considers its specific context and potential, opportunities, challenges, and priorities while evolving towards the end of the trajectory i.e., becoming a fully renewable energy powered island.

Starting from its specific situation and conditions, an island trajectory is composed of technical assistance to projects and other support activities. The proposed island trajectory will cover projects

² Sectors like aviation and (parts of) of marine transport or large industries regulated by the EU Emissions Trading System are not under the authority of islands which provides them little or no room to have an impact. Nevertheless, islands can still have an interest in requesting technical assistance for decarbonisation of e.g. port infrastructure or inter-island ferry connection, if that is a priority for their transition.

that classify within the eight building blocks mentioned below. The building blocks function as a series of themes in which islands can have decarbonisation projects. It does not mean that for each building block, full decarbonisation is aimed at. Also, the technical assistance aims at supporting island public authorities to take action in the fields that are under their control.

The list of building blocks should be considered as a way of structuring technical assistance projects that help the island get towards 100% RES (below each building block comes with examples of technical assistance projects that could act as inspiration for application)³.

- **Energy efficiency measures** to reduce the total energy demand, especially when it comes to the seasonal and energy-intensive touristic sector;
Example technical assistance: [Symi](#)
- All electricity coming from **renewable sources**, whether solar, wind, marine, hydroelectric, geothermal or biomass/biogas;
Example technical assistance: [Chalki](#), [Pantelleria](#), [Cres-Losinj](#), [Tilos](#)
- **Storage, flexibility, and demand response services** along with smart (bi-)directional charging complementing RES-based electricity production, especially to manage seasonal energy demand;
Example technical assistance: [La Palma](#), [Samos](#), [Chalki](#)
- **Transport (infrastructure) on the island** being electrified with RES from the islands or powered by biogas, liquid biofuels or renewable fuels from non-biological origin;
Example technical assistance: [Syros](#), [Kasos](#), [Thira](#)
- **Heating and cooling** being either electrified through RES powered heat pumps, provided by solar thermal or done by renewable biomass resources, through district heating or individual heating systems;
Example technical assistance: [Chalki](#), [Symi](#)
- **Industrial activities**, if any, being renewable powered, either through direct electrification or based on biogas, liquid biofuels or renewable fuels from non-biological origin;
Example technical assistance: [Saint Martin](#), [Crete](#)
- **Interconnections**, if available, exporting at least as much renewable electricity through the interconnection(s) as it imports mainland grid electricity;
Example technical assistance: [Hiiumaa](#), [La Palma](#)
- **Renewable energy ownership and business models** being used to allow islanders to benefit from investments in renewable energy and the clean energy transition being more inclusive.

³ Sectors like aviation and (parts of) of marine transport or large industries regulated by the EU Emissions Trading System are not under the authority of islands which provides them little or no room to have an impact. Nevertheless, islands can still have an interest in requesting technical assistance for decarbonisation of e.g. port infrastructure or inter-island ferry connection, if that is a priority for their transition.

Example technical assistance: [Linosa](#), [Menorca](#), [Pantelleria](#)

Analysing the baseline situation and composing the proposed island trajectory can be challenging for an island. Achieving a fully renewable energy powered island may also require a drastic overhaul of the energy systems that are in place. To support that process, each of the 30 selected islands will receive thorough technical as well as financial guidance and support in designing and paving the way for their journey to become a 100% RES island.

The focus of the technical assistance will be on developing and finalising a set of investment-ready and bankable projects and assisting the islands with finding financing for those projects.

Tailored advice will be provided to the pioneer islands in the form of financing plans for specific projects, assistance in application procedures for specific (both public and private) financing sources, links with existing initiatives like the EU Islands project's marketplace⁴ etc. Workshops and webinars will be organised for pioneer and follower islands to instruct them about the essential elements that should be part of their financing roadmap and in which phases of the project these elements need to be addressed.

Based on the proposed trajectory by the island transition team during the application phase, the secretariat will work with the island transition team to further refine the proposed trajectory. The final agreed trajectory will be part of the trajectory agreement.

2.3.2 Capacity building

Specific capacity building initiatives will mainly be organised in the form of **thematic workshops and trainings**. These workshops and trainings will be designed to maximally suit the island's needs. Peer to peer learning will be enabled by bringing together island stakeholders, follower islands and experts.

The workshops will be practical and require an active role from the island, as they are focused on building the capacity that is needed for progressing in the trajectory. Themes will depend on the specific trajectories and may include renewable energy business models, long and short-term storage, cross-sector linkages, smart energy management, grid planning and management, electromobility, district heating and cooling, energy efficiency and energy savings, sustainable tourism, stakeholder engagement, energy poverty, due diligence requirements for private financing, etc. The workshops will be organised in the days prior to or after the Clean energy for EU islands forums, on a specific island, or on e.g., the sites of best practice cases.

Each island can participate in four workshops over the three-year period. One representative of the selected islands can participate in one workshop on another island at the expense of the secretariat. Islands can choose to participate in more workshops with more representatives funded by their own resources or follow them online.

⁴ <https://clean-energy-islands.ec.europa.eu/islands-marketplace>

In this way, the technical assistance will support the islands in each step in their trajectory for becoming renewable energy islands. The trajectory will identify where specific support from the secretariat is needed, which capacity building initiatives would be of interest for the island and which responsible stakeholders are relevant to be involved.

2.3.3 Governance of the technical assistance

Each island trajectory will require intense cooperation between island stakeholders and the technical assistance delivery team.

From the island's side, a dedicated island transition team will need to be set up to steer the trajectory and to involve and manage relations with relevant local stakeholders. The technical assistance can assist with identifying roles and types of stakeholders for the island transition team.

For defining and implementing the island trajectory, the island transition team will work closely with the team that delivers the technical assistance. From the side of the secretariat, this will be an island support manager and a regional partner, supplemented by a group of technical experts selected based on the relevance of their knowledge and expertise needed for the implementation of the island trajectory.

3 Application process

The application process consists of four phases: Preparation, Submission, Evaluation and Trajectory definition, as shown in Figure 1. This four-phase procedure is designed to limit the work required from applicants to complete an application, while ensuring tailored support adapted to the islands' needs.

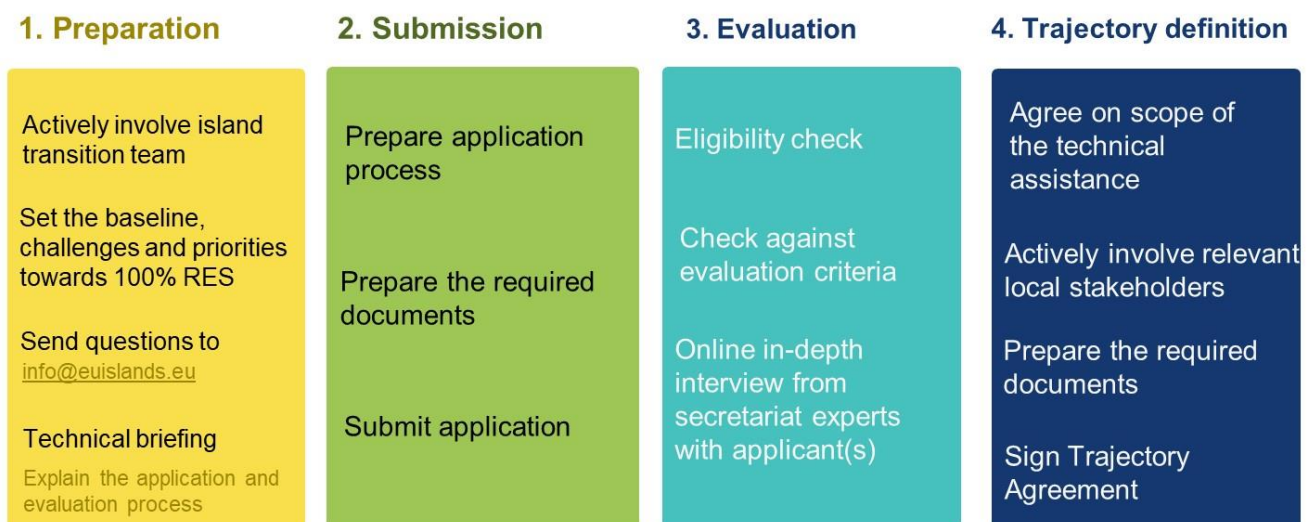


Figure 1 The application process

3.1 Preparation

In the vision of a 100% RES island, all energy produced or consumed on the island (electricity, heating/cooling, or fuel for road and transport) is renewable. To achieve such ambitious goals, it will be crucial to take into account local challenges and opportunities, to prioritise necessary actions and involve island stakeholders through a bottom-up approach.

Therefore, during the preparation phase, islands are invited to first reflect on their baseline situation and their specific challenges and opportunities. This will allow priorities to be set on how to become a 100% RES island. If an island has adopted a Clean energy transition agenda (CETA), Sustainable energy and climate action plan (SECAP) or a similar plan, then (after a potential review or update) the baseline and priority sectors and projects are already defined.

As a next step in the preparation, it will be important to form an island transition team and identify relevant stakeholders. Effective and efficient technical assistance requires active participation from and cooperation with the island transition team to realise the trajectory towards 100% RES. Therefore, allocation of adequate and available human resources and timely responsiveness will be important to achieve the desired impacts.

Moreover, it will be crucial to involve local stakeholders who are important to tackle challenges and enable opportunities to get to 100% RES and who can help with providing the necessary data required for the technical assistance. These stakeholders can be public authorities, industry, academia and/or citizens and they can commit to participate or support through letters of commitment and/or letters of support.

During the Clean energy for EU islands forum in Saaremaa, the call for 30 renewable energy islands will be launched by the European Commission. A technical briefing to explain the application process will be streamed that day and a recording will become available on the YouTube channel of the European Commission. Applicants are invited to pose questions during the live session. Any questions concerning the application form or the application process can also be sent to info@euislands.eu.

3.2 Submission

Applications need to be submitted [online](#) by **6 September 2023 at 23:59 (CET)**. The application is composed of three main parts:

- I. **Applicant(s) information:** List the members of the island transition team and describe the island in general terms.
- II. **Details on requested Technical Assistance:** Describe the island's baseline situation, the specific context and potential, opportunities, challenges and priorities. Describe the proposed/planned set of projects, their attribution to the building blocks described in [Section 2.3](#), their priority, progress, relation with strategic planning, their available funding and impact in addressing the key challenges.
- III. **Required/optional documents:** To support the application, collect and prepare the following documents. Not all documents are mandatory in the application phase:
 - Mandatory documents (see also [3.3.2.2](#)):
 - Application form [online](#).
 - Letter of Commitment for each member of the island transition team (please find a template [here](#)).
 - Declaration of honour (please find a template [here](#)).
 - Optional documents:
 - Letters of support from relevant stakeholders (please find a template [here](#)).
 - Strategic documents and plans supporting existing potential projects, such as a SECAP or CETA.
 - Documents if applicable:
 - Already existing studies/project documents/relevant licences.

- Map of the island with indicated project location.

The entire form can be found in [Error! Reference source not found.](#) so that all the questions and fields to be completed can be consulted offline. Applicants are encouraged to prepare the answers in advance and paste them on the online form as a last step in the application.

3.3 Evaluation

3.3.1 Procedure

Each application is evaluated by at least two experts from the EU Islands secretariat team. The evaluators will first verify whether the application complies with the 8 **eligibility criteria** and whether all the required documents have been submitted. Failure to comply with the requirements will lead to the rejection of the application.

In the second step, applications will be assessed based on the 5 **evaluation criteria** outlined below. The selection process will be supported by an online **in-depth interview** initiated by the secretariat and organised between the island transition team of the applying islands and two secretariat experts. These interviews will allow us to finalise the selection of 30 islands and to agree on the 100% RES island Trajectory, its scope and activities. In addition to the qualitative assessment of the applications, the variety in geographical distribution, size, population, and energy systems (interconnected or not) among the selected islands will also be considered. This will help to ensure diversity among the 30 selected islands.

3.3.2 Eligibility criteria

To be eligible to receive the Clean energy for EU islands secretariat technical assistance, the application must meet the criteria below. If one of these is not met, the application will not be evaluated.

1. Location
2. Beneficiaries
3. Timely submission
4. Duration of the support
5. Non-cumulative award
6. Compliance with EU norms
7. Language
8. Absence of conflict of interest

3.3.2.1 Location

To be eligible for support, projects must be located:

- On an island belonging to one of the Member States of the European Union (EU) and/or countries participating in the LIFE programme.⁵ This means that eligible islands can belong to the Member States of the EU, the Outermost Regions (OMR)⁶ and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT)⁷
- On an island with a maximum area of 30,000 km².

The criterion applies to the actual location where the projects will be realised. Members of the island transition team, the applicant, may be based elsewhere (on the mainland or another island). However, in any case, the proposed assistance (set of activities under the proposed Island Trajectory) must be deployed at location of the applicant island, which has to be identified in the proposal.

Activities related to the offshore facilities are eligible, provided that their onshore connection is located on an eligible island. Activities related to ferries and other marine transport are eligible, provided that the vessels operate among eligible islands or between an eligible island and the mainland.

There is no limit to the number of applications per island. However, it is highlighted that only one applicant will be selected per island, as outlined in [Section 2: Technical assistance](#). Each application will be evaluated independently based on the evaluation detailed below.

3.3.2.2 Beneficiaries

An eligible application requires that its island transition team includes representatives⁸ from at least two stakeholders from two different stakeholder groups. **One of the stakeholders needs to be a public authority (or a civil society organisation supported by a governing body)**. All the public and community-led entities established in the Member States of the European Union are eligible.

Public authorities or civil society organisations must individually provide a letter of commitment to prove their dedication to the support for technical assistance. If there is no public authority on the island, the letter of commitment can be signed by an energy cooperative that the municipality participates in. If for instance, several municipalities on an island apply together, all municipalities involved should demonstrate their commitment. A template for the letter of commitment can be found [here](#).

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/life/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_life_en.pdf

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/themes/outermost-regions_en

⁷ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/countries/overseas-countries-and-territories_en

⁸ Members of the Island Transition Team should submit signed Letters of commitment.

Other stakeholders, who are member of the island transition team or providing support as expressed by a Letter of Support, may be categorised into four different groups, as indicated in the [Clean Energy Transition Agenda template](#) and the [Islands Transition Handbook](#):

- Civil society organisations
- Public sector
- Businesses
- Academia

The letters of support from these stakeholders may be submitted in the application phase or may be developed later during the setup of the trajectory agreement. In any case, they are required as supporting documents for the trajectory agreement.

The technical assistance is aimed at enabling island communities to set up a carbon-neutral future, thus making island communities the ultimate recipient of the benefits. Direct recipients of the support are public entities (island municipalities or local island authorities) and community organisations, such as energy communities and cooperatives that cooperate with multiple island-based stakeholders. While private entities can also be part of the island transition team applying for support, applications need to demonstrate how the provided support will bring benefits to the entire island community.

3.3.2.3 Timely submission

To be eligible for this technical support call, the complete application must be submitted via the online form by 6 September 2023 at 23:59 (CET). A confirmation email will be sent to the leading organisation email introduced on the form once it has been received.

3.3.2.4 Duration of the support

The applicant must be collaborative to ensure that technical assistance on the proposed projects can be provided within the timeline agreed in the trajectory agreement and in any case not later than December 2026.

3.3.2.5 Non-cumulative award

Projects already supported by the European Union are eligible for technical support but there can be no duplicate EU funding for the same task.

Applicants must indicate in the application form any other funding or support received for the projects identified in the proposed Trajectory or by the island.

3.3.2.6 Compliance with EU norms

To be eligible for Clean Energy for EU Island support, applicants are requested to attach a **declaration of honour assuring their compliance with all EU Norms and Regulations**. This

includes the absence of situations of exclusion as listed in Article 136(1) of the EU Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046).

A non-exhaustive list of situations of exclusion is provided below.

- Bankruptcy
- Criminal offences
- Subject to insolvency or winding up procedures
- Breach of obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions
- Violation of intellectual property rights
- Subject to a final judgement as guilty of fraud, corruption, etc.

A template for the declaration of honour can be found [here](#).

3.3.2.7 Language

English is the official language of the open calls. The application form and the letter(s) of commitment written in other EU languages will be evaluated after being translated into English by means of translation software by the secretariat. The secretariat is not responsible for issues or misunderstandings arising from the quality of the translation.

The board evaluating the applications for support will be composed of evaluators from different EU countries, therefore the proposal needs to be understandable by all of them. During the support phase, there will be representation from different language backgrounds that may provide direct assistance in a language other than English (e.g. support from regional partners).

3.3.2.8 Absence of conflict of interest

Applicants shall not have any actual or/and potential conflict of interest with the selection process or be associated with any member of the evaluation team.

Any conflict of interest needs to be declared together with the application.

3.3.3 Evaluation criteria

The following Table gives an overview of the evaluation criteria and their weighting factors. Each criterion is provided 0-10 points, with 10 being the maximum number of points per criterion.

Criterion	Requirement	Weight
1. Island transition team	Local leadership is key to drive the island and connect the work carried out by the secretariat with the local community. Readiness and resources (human and time availability) of the island transition team help implement the Trajectory. Active participation of the island authorities in the island transition team is needed. Good collaboration among the island transition team and the diversity of members (from quadruple helix) ensures less risk for the implementation of the Trajectory.	35%

2. Stakeholders' engagement	<p>Commitment to participate or support (through letters of commitment & support) from relevant stakeholders from quadruple helix (public authorities, industry, academia and citizens). Involvement of regional or national stakeholders is considered a benefit.</p> <p>The maximum number of points for this criterion is provided only if there is active participation in the island transition team or provided letters of support from the relevant electricity distribution system operator (DSO), (if applicable) transmission system operator (TSO) and the regulatory energy agency.</p>	30%
3. Multi-sector approach	<p>Focus of the energy transition on the island should not only be on one sector, but on fully decarbonising the energy system of the island and on integrating different sectors⁹: electricity generation, transport, heating and cooling, storage and flexibility, energy efficiency.</p> <p>Maximum number of points will be provided for the islands which take into account water, waste and other environmental aspects.</p>	15%
4. Impact and replicability	<p>Impact will be assessed based on how much the activities discussed as possible under the Trajectory have an impact on the island's aim to achieve 100% RES island for 2030. This will be based on the island's context i.e., existing plans, studies etc. such as CETA, master plan, existing feasibility studies, etc.</p> <p>Replicability will be assessed based on how much the characteristics of the energy system and activities under the Trajectory of an island can be used for other islands in the future.</p>	10%
5. #REPowerEU objectives	<p>Alignment of applications with the #REpowerEU package, such as adherence to the solar strategy, acceleration of planning procedures and actions on energy savings.</p>	10%

3.4 Trajectory Definition

After the evaluation, the applications will be narrowed down to 30 applications that will receive support through technical assistance in their aim to reach the vision of a 100% RES island for 2030.

Subsequently, the secretariat in cooperation with the island transition team will prepare a trajectory agreement that the island transition team must confirm and sign before the commencement of the support.

The Agreement is a contract indicating the mutual commitment between the secretariat and the island transition team during the three years on various points:

- A description of the technical assistance activities that will be provided by the secretariat including (non-exhaustive list): preparation of CETA, regulatory analysis or pre-feasibility study for a specific sector or a project, feasibility studies, financing plans for specific projects, support with tender specifications and/or processes, participation in topic specific workshops, support for stakeholder engagement, etc.

⁹ Sectors like aviation and (parts of) marine transport or large industries regulated by the EU Emissions Trading System are not under the authority of islands which provides them little or no room to have an impact.

- The timeframe for each of these activities, showing the time range or deadline for implementation of each of the activities within the three-year period.
- An indicative list of information and data to be provided by the island transition team within an estimated timeframe and necessary to perform the technical assistance activities.
- Active involvement of local stakeholders who are crucial to execute the activities and provide the necessary data. Letters of support from relevant stakeholders (please find a template [here](#)).
- Commitment of the island transition team to cooperate with two follower islands. The follower islands will be involved by the secretariat on one or more specific topic(s). The secretariat will ensure that the topics will align in scope and timing with the activities and timeframe under the specific trajectory agreement, enabling an efficient organisation and a minimum of efforts for the island transition team.

The template for the Trajectory Agreement can be found [here](#).

3.5 Implementation of the island's trajectory agreement

The islands' trajectory agreement serves as an implementation plan for the island transition team and the secretariat. The implementation of the set of activities defined under the island's trajectory agreement starts with the signing of the agreement and ends by 31 December 2026. The timeline of implementation of defined activities will be identified in the agreement. During the implementation of the island's Trajectory, a yearly stocktake will be performed to assess the implemented activities against the agreed plan. Changes to the Trajectory scope will need to be agreed upon by the island transition team and the secretariat in written format.

3.6 Unsuccessful applications & Follower Programme

The secretariat will contact the islands that are not selected among the 30 pioneer islands. They will be provided with feedback and constructive guidance and they have an opportunity to collaborate with the 30 islands as follower islands. A special call for follower islands will be open in due time.

The secretariat's Follower Programme provides a broad group of islands the possibility to learn from the technical assistance provided to the 30 selected islands. More specifically, follower islands have the opportunity to be involved in workshops and webinars on specific topics that are relevant for them. In this way, follower islands collaborate with the 30 selected islands and also receive guidance on their individual pathway towards a carbon-neutral future.

Annex I. Application form questions

The application form is available [online](#). To help applicants prepare, all the questions that appear on the online form are outlined below. It is advised for applicants to prepare and save responses, especially those to long-text questions in advance and paste them online as a last step.

Any questions concerning the application forms, or the application process can be sent to info@euislands.eu. The secretariat is also available for questions by phone; applicants are asked to use the same e-mail address to make an appointment.

Background and introduction

During the third phase of the Clean energy for EU islands secretariat, technical assistance will be offered to a total of 30 islands over a period of 3 years. This form helps your island(s) to apply for this unique opportunity to get access to expertise in your journey to become a 100% RES island by 2030.

Are you unfamiliar with the Clean energy for EU islands secretariat and its work? Then do visit <https://clean-energy-islands.ec.europa.eu/> to learn more.

Island and island transition team

To enable review of your application, we need some basic information from you. Please complete the next set of questions to the best of your knowledge.

1. Island basic information

Please select the country your island belongs to	HR – Croatia; CY – Cyprus; DK – Denmark; EE – Estonia; FI – Finland; FR – France; DE – Germany; EL – Greece; IE – Ireland; IT – Italy; MT – Malta; NL – Netherlands; PT – Portugal; ES – Spain; SE – Sweden.
Name(s) of the island(s) or archipelago in scope for the technical assistance requested	
Total area of the island(s) in square kilometers	

2. Island Transition Team

For every partner organisation, the table below needs to be filled in

Name of the organisation applying for technical assistance	
Type of entity	Public sector; Business; Civil society organisation; Academia.
Organisation contact name	
Organisation address	
Organisation contact email	
Organisation contact phone	
Organisation website	

Projects in which the organisation is currently participating (EU or national):	
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Projects that we can assist with

In this phase, applicants are asked to provide information on the baseline situation on the island and define their ambitions for technical assistance, with a proposed trajectory.

To develop the trajectory, it is important to understand what has already been achieved, and what is the gap towards an envisioned 100% RES island. The trajectory starts from the island's baseline situation and takes into account its specific context and potential, opportunities, challenges, and priorities while evolving towards the end of the trajectory i.e., becoming a fully renewable-energy powered island.

You will need to describe the desired assistance for (potentially) planned and ongoing projects on the island that contribute to the island's journey to becoming a 100% Renewable Energy Island (hereafter: the island Trajectory). The projects may be categorised along the following building blocks towards 100% RES:

(Note: The proposed island trajectory will cover projects that classify within the eight building blocks, without requiring that for each building block full decarbonisation is aimed at. Moreover, the technical assistance aims at supporting island public authorities to take action in the (sub)categories that are under their control):

- Energy efficiency measures;
- Electricity coming from renewable sources;
- Storage, flexibility, and demand response services;
- Transport;
- Heating and cooling;
- Industrial activities;
- Interconnections;
- Renewable energy ownership and business models.

1. Your Baseline Situation

We need to understand your starting situation and the governance context in which you operate. The next few questions are meant to establish an overview of where you are and what is specified in any plans you have.

- a. Provide a description of the **existing** energy situation and projects on the island. List their priority and how far they are.
(max 2,500 characters)
- b. Attach or provide links to any official plans.
e.g., CETA, SECAP, NECP, for instance: Menorca 2030
- c. If no such plans exist, provide any other plans, and identify a list of key challenges for the projects.
(max 2,500 characters)

2. The projects you seek support for

Starting from its specific situation and conditions, an island trajectory can be composed of several building blocks. In this section, you describe the projects and topics for which technical assistance is requested. You may categorise the project(s) along the building blocks towards 100% RES.

- a. What are the sectors you intend to focus on and why?
(max 2,500 characters)
- b. . What are missing elements that still need to be addressed?
(max 2,500 characters)
- c. Provide an overview of the **proposed** set of projects on the island, which can be part of the Island's Trajectory. Identify the building blocks they belong to, their priority, progress, relation with strategic planning, available funding and impact about key challenges in the table below.

There is space for listing up to 10 projects. If there are more projects you wish to share with us, do upload additional information.

Projects	Building block (choose from 8 building blocks)	Priority (High/Medium/Low)	Progress/Status	Foreseen in the strategic document (e.g. Clean Energy Transition Agenda or other)	Applied for other funding	Impact of the project
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						
7.						
8.						
9.						
10.						

- d. Upload information in case you have more than 10 projects you wish to share with us.
- e. Identify and explain the roles and capacity of the organisations that are members of the island transition team.
(max 2,500 characters)
- f. Provide the list of stakeholders relevant to the proposed project and how members of the Island transition team will engage these stakeholders (for communication and

dissemination, if relevant).

(max 2,500 characters)

3. Mandatory documents we need from you

- a. Letter of Commitment for each member of the island transition team (please find a template [here](#)).
- b. Declaration of honour (please find a template [here](#)).

4. Optional documents that will greatly help

For us to better understand how your request is supported by stakeholders, grounded in prior work and how it will materialise, we kindly ask you to provide additional information. Although optional, it does help to see whether the work is integrated, will be welcomed and supported and in the end will be impactful and lasting.

- a. Letters of support from relevant stakeholders (please find a template [here](#)).
- b. Strategic documents and plans supporting existing potential projects, such as a SECAP or CETA.
- c. Already existing studies/project documents/relevant licences.
- d. Map of the island with indicated project location.

5. Your declaration of no conflict of interest

By ticking this box I declare that there is no conflict of interest related to the present application.

6. More information and how to get in touch

In case anything is unclear to you, do contact the Clean energy for EU islands secretariat via: info@euislands.eu.

Please use 'Question about technical assistance' in the header of your message.

Good luck with your application!