

**From Horizon to market:
New projects support mature European technological innovation for a clean and sustainable
energy transition through the Innovation Fund programme**

16 May 2024 – On 22 and 23 April 2024 in Brussels (Belgium), the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) organised a two-day event gathering five projects that support the deployment of research and innovation results for climate mitigation technologies from Horizon 2020 to the Innovation Fund and other funding programmes related to decarbonisation. During the meeting, CINEA and the projects teams had the opportunity to discuss methodologies, tools and share lessons learnt to support Innovation Fund applicants, foster collaboration and enhance communication strategies and outreach.

Deployment of a European innovation pipeline

The five Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs) are funded under the topic [HORIZON-CL5-2023-D2-01-07](#): ‘Support for the deployment of R&I results for climate mitigation. Synergies with the ETS Innovation Fund’. This call aims to promote and facilitate technologically, financially, and operationally mature Horizon 2020/Europe projects to reach market deployment by means of developing synergies with the ETS Innovation Fund.

The objectives also include the development of a European innovation pipeline, with sound, mature and economically feasible projects for the implementation of technological solutions to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions, the creation of synergies between different European R&I funding programmes, and the contribution to the REPowerEU plan, as well as the overall EU climate targets. The five projects have a duration between 30 and 36 months and started their work in January 2024. They focus on four different topics:

Topics	CSAs
Low-carbon technologies in energy-intensive industries	2DPLOY
Carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS)	LEADS
Renewable energy generation	REALIZE , DIAMONDS4IF
Energy storage & hydrogen	H2IF

2DPLOY

Paving the way for the decarbonisation of energy-intensive industries

2DPLOY aims to support European energy-intensive industries in increasing the deployment of carbon-neutral technologies and processes, hence supporting the climate ambitions of the European Union. The project will create an innovation pipeline of mature innovations developed under Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects to the Innovation Fund by offering capacity building and tailored guidance to innovation owners in preparing viable IF applications.

Moreover, 2DPLOY aims to create a stream of innovation for low-carbon technologies within energy-intensive industries. The project will also cultivate optimal methodologies and back pilot Innovation Fund proposals while promoting transparent collaboration and cultivating synergistic relationships.

LEADS

Bridging the innovation gap from H2020 and HEU to the Innovation Fund



LEADS aims to accelerate the path towards the EU's target of becoming the first carbon-neutral continent by 2050. This challenge is tackled by building an innovation pipeline for promising Carbon Capture Use and Storage technologies from Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe to the Innovation Fund, supporting innovation owners in overcoming the main bottlenecks and reaching final investment decisions.

LEADS will deliver a set of measures to assess and select the most promising framework projects, and coach and enable them to apply to the Innovation Fund. Furthermore, the project focuses on developing reusable tools and synergy mechanisms between H2020/HEU and IF.

REALIZE

Renewable Energy Actions Leveraging Innovation towards Zero Emissions in Europe

The REALIZE project aims to present a carefully selected and pre-qualified portfolio of new renewable energy generation technologies to the EU Innovation Fund (IF) through proposals resulting from successfully completed Horizon projects in Renewable Energy Sources (RES).

REALIZE mobilises a comprehensive selection of new, currently not fully commercialised renewable energy technologies in advanced photovoltaics (PV), concentrating solar (CSP), Solar Heating & Cooling, Offshore Wind, Ocean (Tidal) energy, and Advanced Biofuels for sea and air transport. The technologies owners will be supported in their effort to win major Innovation Fund support by a multidisciplinary team with strong expertise on the Innovation Fund application process as well as on other European and national funding schemes related to RES projects, allowing them to maximise the potential to present innovative RES projects for public grants and/or equity investment.

DIAMONDS4IF

With a specific focus in the field of renewable energy, DIAMONDS4IF aims at developing a systematic approach to support selected Horizon 2020 beneficiary companies to further develop their projects and apply for the ETS Innovation Fund (IF). The IF fosters low carbon processes and technologies – and many results from H2020 provide promising solutions for deployment.

The project will create a toolbox – based on our intelligence platform @Wheesbee – and will generate at least five solid proposals with detailed plans for scalability, commercialisation, and financial models. In the medium term, DIAMONDS4IF will develop and nurture a continuous innovation pipeline from H2020 innovations to deployment. It will also improve understanding of relevant regulations and address issues arising from the project planning and management.

H2IF

Our mission is to validate the effectiveness of this connection by scaling up and submitting three meticulously selected projects to the Innovation Fund instrument. These projects exemplify R&I excellence, boasting high potential for 'climate neutrality' and innovation while already enjoying support from Horizon 2020.

With a strategic focus on hydrogen and energy storage projects, H2IF aims to pioneer a paradigm shift in sustainable technology deployment. By joining the collective expertise and resources of both Horizon 2020 and the Innovation Fund, we strive for real-world impact, driving forward the transition towards a greener and more resilient future.



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Background information:

The Innovation Fund, financed by EU Emissions Trading System revenues, is one of the world's largest funding programmes for the demonstration of innovative low-carbon technologies. The Fund focuses on highly innovative clean technologies and big flagship projects with European added value that can bring significant emission and greenhouse gas reductions.

