



Citizen Energy Advisory Hub (CEAH)

Provision of technical assistance

Information Session – 2nd call for application

2026





Practical information

- **Use the chat** function to share your comments and questions at any time during the event
- Feel free to '**raise your hand**' to ask a question during the Q&A session
- Please make sure to **mute your microphone** until you are given the floor



Agenda

Time	Agenda item
5min	Welcome to participants
5min	About the Citizen Energy Advisory Hub A brief introduction to CEAH
10min	Technical Assistance to be offered Presentation of the type of technical assistance services offered for citizen energy initiatives in the current call for applications
10min	Current call for applications Presentation on eligibility criteria and the selection process
30min	Q&A with participants Questions about the application process and the technical assistance
5min	Conclusions and next steps End of information session



Citizen Energy Advisory Hub (CEAH)

Driving a citizen-centred energy transition

The energy system in Europe is changing. It's becoming greener, more decentralised, and tailored to local needs.

This means citizens have an opportunity to play a much bigger role in Europe's energy systems.

The Citizen Energy Advisory Hub empowers citizens and communities to participate in a sustainable and inclusive energy transition through a platform of resources, tools, and support.





Advancing citizen energy initiatives in the EU

Focusing on achieving **affordable energy**, increasing access to **renewable technologies**, and **improving energy efficiency**, CEAH will support initiatives such as:

- Renewable energy production and storage
- Energy sharing and peer-to-peer trading
- Energy efficiency improvements
- Effective demand response

Who will CEAH support?

CEAH is here to **help everyone** participate in a socially fair and inclusive energy transition.

Households

Small Businesses

Municipalities and
local authorities

Energy
Communities

Social Economy
Actors

Small-Scale NGO's



Overcoming challenges for citizen energy

Stakeholders face barriers and challenges to participating in energy initiatives.

To help address these, CEAH will:

1. Support and inspire the development of energy communities
2. Aid local actors to create enabling conditions in local energy systems
3. Build capacity for a range of stakeholders



Financing and economic barriers



Shortages in capacity and expertise



Inclusion of vulnerable groups



Lack of trust and participation



Inconsistent national implementation



Lack of enabling legal frameworks



Lack of information on participation options

CEAH's main activities

Capacity building and technical assistance

- **Direct technical assistance** for 120 citizen energy initiatives
- **Citizen Energy Panels** hosted in each of the 27 EU Member States
- **10 Capacity-building workshops** tailored to diverse stakeholders

Networking and peer-to-peer exchanges

- Two large **public conferences**
- A **Citizen Energy Network**
- Webinar series:
 - **Energy Breakfast Sessions** – showcasing success stories
 - **Chatting on Citizen Energy** – discussions with experts

Key output and deliverables

- **Interactive Map** of EU Citizen Energy initiatives
- **20 Guidance Documents**
- **55 Best Practice** case studies
- **Country policy profiles** on EU Member States' legal and policy frameworks
- **Quarterly Newsletter**



CEAH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE





Objectives of the Technical Assistance

CEAH will offer **free technical assistance to 120 beneficiaries** from **citizen energy projects** across the EU. This includes:

- **Tailored expert matching** based on project needs, skills, and geographic experience
- **8 months of hands-on support**, including a site visit and clearly defined deliverables
- **Peer exchange opportunities** to share challenges, experiences, and best practices



1st CEAH TA call for application

48 projects were selected in the 1st call, out of about 70 applications received, in **different EU Member States**, such as Spain, Italy, France, Poland, Hungary and Czechia.

Examples of projects currently supported by CEAH include:

Project 1: Czechia

Project lead: citizen energy community

Project's objectives: Enable **energy sharing and coordinated energy management across multiple municipalities** through digital tools and integrated governance.

Project 2: Poland

Project lead: local authority

Project's objectives: Transform a former coal-based city into a **renewable, self-sufficient urban energy system** integrating multiple technologies and **addressing energy poverty**.

Project 3: Italy

Project lead: citizen energy community

Project's objectives: Develop a solidarity-based renewable energy community that combines **local solar production** with **revenue redistribution to fund social and energy poverty projects**

Project 4: Hungary

Project lead: residential condominium

Project's objectives: Support apartment owners in planning and implementing **shared renewable energy and efficiency solutions**, starting with renewable hot water systems.



Types of Technical Assistance

- Financial advisory support
- Technical support
- Legal support
- Stakeholder engagement support
- Capacity-building support





1) Financial advisory support: menu of services

- Support with **funding and financing**, including guidance on identifying and accessing early-stage funding opportunities such as grants and subsidies.
- Support to develop **financial models** and **business plans**.
- Support in designing **fundraising strategies**.
- Support to improve **financial literacy**, including for budgeting, investment planning, tariff understanding, benefit sharing schemes, and other relevant financial aspects.
- Support with **innovative financing mechanism** design, including guidance on creating tailored financial models such as revolving funds, blended finance structures, cooperatives investment schemes, adapted to the needs of citizen energy initiatives.



1) Financial advisory support: concrete examples from 1st TA round

- Mappings of existing funding instruments at EU, national and local levels (grants, awards, subsidies, etc)
- Analysis of financing options for the project
- Development of business plans and investment models
- Preparation of strategies to position and present the project to investors



2) Technical support: menu of services

- Support with **feasibility and site studies**.
- Support with **technical system design and engineering**.
- Support with **energy performance and demand analysis**.
- Support with **permitting rules** and documentation.
- Support with **energy storage integration**.
- Support with **digital and data solutions**, such as digital interfaces with intermediaries, data management and the use of blockchain, and peer-to-peer (P2P) energy trading platforms.



2) Technical support: concrete examples from 1st TA round

- Feasibility studies for various types of projects (solar, hydro, bio-gas power plant, etc), including analysis of supply and demand.
- Design of models to integrate batteries, electric mobility, etc.
- Assessment of the potential of projects
- Developing digital solutions, such as design of models to collect data on electricity consumption
- Elaboration of energy sharing scenarios



3) Legal support: menu of services

- Support with **legal structuring and governance**, such as setting up the right legal form, drafting statutes, and defining governance rules.
- Support with **contracting** and **regulatory compliance**.



3) Legal support: concrete examples from 1st TA round

- Design of legal documents such as contracts, agreements, memorandum of understanding, for the members of the initiative and external stakeholders
- Drafting statutes of the citizen energy initiative
- Training on public-private governance models
- Assessment of national or regional regulatory framework and elaboration of documents to explain the legal framework
- Recommendations on the possible legal form for the citizen energy initiative



4) Stakeholder engagement support: menu of services

- Support with **communication and outreach**, such as developing communication materials and running campaigns.
- Support with **community mobilisation and participation**, including events logistics, such as organising citizen dialogues and panels, educational seminars, discussions on energy technologies and other participatory activities.
- Support to use **behavioural insights and instruments**, such as designing tools, messages and incentives for citizen energy initiatives.
- Support to increase **inclusiveness and engaging vulnerable groups**, such as developing inclusive community engagement strategies.
- Support to **build and manage partnerships**, including building networks for citizen energy and creating umbrella energy communities.



4) Stakeholder engagement support: concrete examples from 1st TA round

- Elaboration of a communication strategy / action plan for the initiative
- Elaboration of engagement materials (e.g. flyers, FAQ, websites, etc) and engagement strategies
- Support the organisation of stakeholder events (e.g. members' assembly, outreach events, etc)
- Mapping of relevant stakeholders
- Development of materials to replicate the initiative
- Elaboration of strategies and measures to identify and integrate vulnerable group



5) Capacity building support: menu of services

- Support to strengthen the **internal organisation and day-to-day operations** of the project, including project planning, administrative setup, management of members, etc.
- Support to facilitate **self-consumption and energy sharing**, including how to set up and manage energy-sharing arrangements and contracts.
- Support to establish adequate **protection of consumers** involved in energy sharing.
- Support to implement the **energy efficiency first principle**.
- Support to **design support schemes** that balance the objective of providing fair remuneration to consumers whilst incentivising demand-response.
- Support to **professionalise activities and upskilling** to ensure lasting competencies.
- Support to design **dynamic price offers** to engage citizens in demand response.
- Support to **mainstream sustainable energy action in the social economy**.



5) Capacity building support: concrete examples from 1st TA round

- Training programmes and practical workshops for citizens, regional authorities, SMEs, etc
- Diagnostics of internal processes and functioning
- Support with designing governance processes, internal structuring, etc
- Development of educational materials on diverse topics
- Support to professionalise and up-skill staff
- Support with onboarding new members and managing members of the initiative

How much support is available?

Intensive Pathway

Up to 4 different
support categories
~ 40 expert days

Moderate Pathway

Up to 3 different
support categories
~ 30 expert days

Light Pathway

Up to 2 different
support categories
~ 20 expert days



Who can apply?

Type of actors who can apply (from the EU):

- **Citizen Energy communities** or **Renewable Energy Communities** as defined by EU directives, as well as similar entities
- **Groups of citizens** (Informally or formally organised, such as homeowners' associations)
- **Small enterprises**
- **Small non-governmental or non-profit organisations**, including social economy actors (e.g. cooperatives, associations)
- **Local public authorities**





What is needed to qualify for support?

To qualify for support, applicants must:

- Belong to one of the **five eligible stakeholder categories**
- Be implementing, or planning to implement, a **citizen energy project** – or actively be supporting such projects
- Be based in an **EU Member State**
- **Not have already received funding or support** for the same aspect of the project for which they are requesting assistance
- Submit a **signed letter of commitment**





How is the technical assistance delivered?

- **Selection:** Your project is matched with CEAH expert(s) based on your needs
- **Kick-off:** Technical assistance begins with a meeting involving you, the assigned expert(s), and your CEAH coordinator
- **Implementation:** Over up to 8 months, you collaborate with the expert(s) to deliver agreed activities and outputs defined in a joint workplan
- **Finalisation:** All deliverables are completed and submitted by the expert(s), followed by a closing meeting
- **Peer exchange:** In parallel, you can join small-group exchanges with other beneficiaries to share challenges and learn from each other

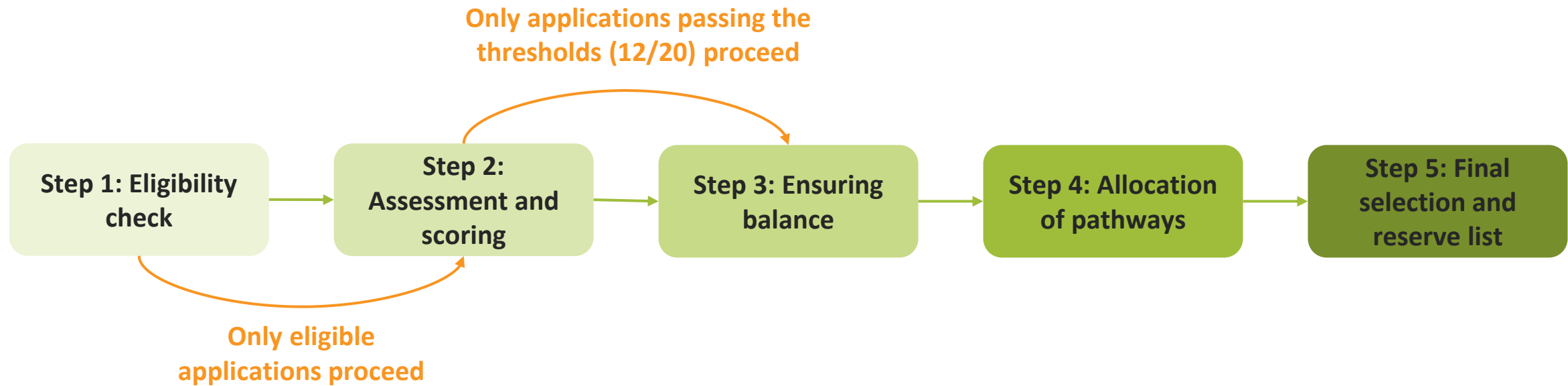


Timing of the call for application

- **1st September (Tuesday) – 2nd October (Friday) 2026:** CEAH 2nd call for applications is open
- **October 2026:** assessment of applications
- **Early November 2026:** Selection of projects and matching with experts, notification of selection results
- **From mid-November 2026:** Start of the technical assistance (kick-off meetings)
- **July 2027:** End of the technical assistance



Assessment process



Assessment criteria

Objectives and impacts of the citizen energy project:

- Project readiness and feasibility
- Stakeholder engagement and inclusiveness
- Expected impact on citizens
- Best practice and replicability
- Innovativeness

Technical Assistance needs and services:

- Clarity of the technical assistance needs
- Commitment of resources for the technical assistance
- Coherence of the technical assistance services requested
- Expected impact of the technical assistance services



Tips for a strong CEAH TA application

- 1) Be precise and targeted on your TA needs:** Clearly explain what support you need, on which specific project aspects, and why. Select only the TA categories that directly match your needs.
 - 2) Link your needs to your project:** Show how the requested support fits your project's objectives, stage and challenges.
 - 3) Be clear and realistic on expected outcomes:** Specify what you expect from the expert and how this will move your project forward. Make sure your request aligns with the scope of CEAH services, available resources and the timeframe of the TA.
 - 4) Describe your project clearly and concretely:** Cover objectives, activities, stakeholders involved, and current stage of development (what has been done, what is planned)
 - 5) Show readiness and organisation:** Demonstrate a clear plan, roles, and commitment to work with CEAH experts effectively
- > **Key takeaway:** Be clear and specific. This helps evaluators understand your project and request, and ensure that your project is matched with the right expert(s).



How to apply?

- Go to EUSurvey and submit the online application form [\[insert link\]](#)
- Today's provided information is available in the Guidance Note
- For questions concerning the application process, you can contact ceahta@ecorys.com

A wide-angle landscape photograph showing a large-scale renewable energy project. In the foreground, a calm body of water reflects the bright sunlight. To the right, a large array of solar panels is visible. In the background, several large wind turbines stand against a clear sky. The scene is surrounded by green fields and some small buildings.

Q&A with participants



Next steps

- **Call for applications opens on Tuesday 1st September 2026**
- **Friday 2nd October 2026:** closure of application process for the 2nd call
- **November 2026 until July 2027:** implementation of the technical assistance
- **Any further questions?** Contact us at ceahta@ecorys.com



Thank you for your interest!

We look forward to
receiving your application

ceahta@ecorys.com

