PROJECT FICHE TEMPLATE

(DRAFT)

JUST TRANSITION PROGRAMME

STEP PROJECTS

# **PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT**

## Key characteristics of the Project

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **The Project name** | […] |
| **STEP Investment Areas** |  Digital technologies and deep-tech innovation Clean and resource efficient technologies Biotechnologies[[1]](#footnote-1) |
| **STEP Technology Areas** |  [*Select the relevant technology areas. Please see Annex 1 for the list of supported STEP technology areas (presented in respective tables in the column on the left).*] |
| **STEP Technologies**  |  [*Indicate the relevant technology/ies for the selected technology areas. Please see Annex 1 for the list of supported STEP technologies (a non-exhaustive list is presented for each technology area in respective tables in the column on the right).]* |
| **Name of the Applicant**  | [Leading partner: …..Other partner(s): ..*...]* |
| **Estimated budget**  | [*Indicate in EURO without VAT.]* |
| **Project duration**  | [*Indicate the duration in terms of number of months from the start of activities until the last output is achieved]* |
| **Location**  | […] |

## Short presentation of the Project

|  |
| --- |
| [Please give a simple overview of the project, including its purpose, a brief description of the applicant, key technologies or value chains related to the STEP, a statement about the identified gap, how the project addresses this gap, anticipated benefits, planned main activities, and the expected project outcomes. The summary should be limited to 1,500 characters.] |

## Short description of the Project Outputs

|  |
| --- |
| [Please list the project outcomes, such as a laboratory, new product, new technology, and similar items. Please keep the response within 500 characters.] |

## Commercialization aspect

|  |
| --- |
| [Please provide a brief explanation of how the project outputs will be brought to market. Include details about any current commercialization plans and the anticipated timeline for bringing the project to market. Please keep your response within 500 characters.]  |

## End products/services

|  |
| --- |
| [Please specify the exact products or services that will benefit from the outcomes of this project in as much detail as possible. For example, if the project includes establishing a research and development facility or laboratory, please outline the essential services or end products that will be created/developed in this facility, and briefly describe how they are connected to STEP critical technologies or their respective value chains. Additionally, please provide important details about the relevant market for the end products/services. For further details about STEP Objectives, please see Section 4.The summary should be limited to 1,000 characters.] |

# **THE BODY RESPONSIBLE** **FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT, AND ITS CAPACITY**

## Project Applicant[[2]](#footnote-2)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2.1.1 | Name: |  |
| 2.1.2 | *Address:* |  |
| 2.1.3 | *Name of contact person* |  |
| 2.1.4 | *Position of contact person* |  |
| 2.1.5 | *Telephone:* |  |
| 2.1.6 | *E-mail:* |  |

## Details of the Project Applicant

* + 1. Is the Applicant a public or private organization?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Public |  |  | Private |  |

* + 1. Is the Applicant an SME[[3]](#footnote-3)(including start-up) or mid-cup enterprise?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes |  |  | No |  |

## Capacity of the body responsible for project implementation by referring to its administrative, research, production and marketing capacity

* + 1. Research capacity and specific experience (as minimum information, please, indicate the EU-funded and/or comparable R&D projects carried out in the last ten years, number of full time equivalent R&D personnel, number of R&D personnel with Phd, number of patents/licenses, specific experience in the technology to be used in the Project, specific R&D experience relevant to the end product/service line, and, if possible, include the proposed organizational chart for R&D and operation).

Max. 1,000 characters

* + 1. (If applicable) Production capacity and experience (as minimum information, please, indicate the production volumes in the last five years, number of engineers, technicians, labor, capacity of the production facilities, production technologies, type of products, specific experience in the technology to be used in the production, specific production experience relevant to the end product/service line, and, if possible, include the proposed organizational chart for production operations).

Max. 1,000 characters

* + 1. (If applicable) Marketing & sales capacity and experience (as minimum information, please, indicate the sales revenue in the last five years, sales volumes, geographical presence, number of marketing and sales personnel, online sales, type of products, specific marketing and distribution experience relevant to the end product/service line and, if possible, include the proposed organizational chart for marketing and sales operations).

Max. 1,000 characters

# **FULLING THE STEP CONDITIONS**

*(Guidance: STEP has 2 conditions to be met. The Projects must meet either of the following conditions:*

1. *they bring to the internal market an* ***innovative, emerging, and cutting-edge element with significant economic potential****;*
2. *they contribute to* ***reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies*** *of the Union.*

*These two conditions are not cumulative in the assessment of criticality.)*

## Please indicate which condition(s) is met by the Project:

 **The project fulfils the first condition that the project outcomes bring to the internal market an innovative, emerging, and cutting-edge element with significant economic potential**

*(Guidance: Please note that critical technologies should bring:*

1. ***Innovative*** *elements bring in the key criterion of ‘novelty’, leading to notable improvements or changes in a particular field or industry;*
2. ***Emerging elements*** *refer to new, recently developed technologies, which can, for example, arise from the research base and are starting to gain traction and show promise of significant growth or impact;*
3. ***Cutting-edge*** *elements refer to the most advanced, innovative, and sophisticated technologies currently available or in development in the Union*

*with* ***significant economic potential to the internal market****.*

***A combination of at least two of these elements could lead to a technology being deemed as critical in the meaning of STEP Regulation****.)*

 **The project fulfils the second condition that they contribute to reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union**

*(Guidance: Pursuant to Article 2(2), point (b) of the STEP Regulation, technologies under the relevant STEP sectors are to be deemed critical where they contribute to reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union. A strategic dependency may be deemed to exist where the European Union relies significantly on third-countries sources of supply for a critical technologies or their respective value chains . The significant reliance on third parties can be demonstrated by relevant trade statistics.)*

 **The project fulfils both conditions**

## Please briefly explain how the Project meets one or both of the STEP condition(s):

* + 1. If the Project fulfills the Condition 1, please explain how the Project will support the development of critical technologies through innovative elements:

*(Guidance: Please note that STEP aims to prioritise breakthrough innovations, which have the potential to be market-shaping, disrupting, or creating, and to bring significant economic potential to the Union.*

*The significance of the economic potential should be assessed in terms of technologies that could address a variety of Union markets (rather than geographically limited markets) or to have a substantial impact on the development or manufacturing of the technology.*

*When responding to this question, please correlate your explanation with the STEP priorities to the extent possible)*

|  |
| --- |
| [Please provide, within max. 2,000 characters, an explanation on how the Project will support the development of critical technologies through innovative elements. * Which critical technology will be developed as an outcome of the Project ?
* Please explain what will be the project outcome to be commercialized and how including any prior arrangements, past experience and similar?
* Explain how project outputs will contribute to the development respective critical technology?
* Which critical elements (i.e. innovative, emerging and/or cutting edge) will your Project outputs bring to the respective technology?
* If the case, please provide explanation and arguments regarding the innovative elements that the Project will bring?
* If the case, please provide explanation and arguments regarding the emerging elements that the Project will bring?
* If the case, please provide explanation and arguments regarding the cutting-edge elements that the Project will bring?
 |

* + 1. If the Project fulfills the Condition 2, please provide the following information:

*(Guidance: In accordance with the EIC Working Paper 01/2022, 2022, available at:* [*https://eic.ec.europa.eu/document/download/f8784d43-c128-4338-90b7-0e67e8217dc1\_en*](https://eic.ec.europa.eu/document/download/f8784d43-c128-4338-90b7-0e67e8217dc1_en)

*a number of dependencies and vulnerabilities have been identified in a set of assessments and roadmaps carried out at Union level.* ***The following assessments can serve as key reference documents in justifying the strategic dependencies that the Project outputs will addressed to****:*

*i.* ***Industrial Policy Update:*** *Anticipating and monitoring the Union’s strategic dependencies has been regularly performed by the Commission as part of the Industrial Policy Update;*

*ii.* ***OCT:*** *In line with its 2021 Action Plan, the Commission established the Observatory of Critical Technologies (OCT) to assess all technologies vital to space, defence, and civil industries, identifying supply chain weaknesses, capability gaps, and dependencies outside the Union. The OCT, which relies on comprehensive data beyond mere statistical extrapolation, is critical for monitoring the robustness of supply chains, especially in low-volume yet crucial sectors.*

*iii.* ***The European Economic Security Strategy (2023):*** *identified several broad and non-exhaustive categories of risks to economic security, which reflects the Union dimension of the analysis of risks which have potential effects on the entire Union. One category emphasises risks related to the resilience of supply chains, including dependencies that are more likely to be weaponised for geopolitical purposes. To mitigate these risks, the Strategy is based, among other goals, on promoting the Union’s competitiveness and growth, strengthening the internal market, supporting a strong and resilient economy, and fostering the Union’s research, technological and industrial base. STEP is a key tool in this respect. It aims to support the development and manufacturing in the Union of critical technologies and to strengthen their respective value chains to reduce or prevent strategic dependencies of the Union, in line with State aid rules.*

*iv.* ***Critical medicines list:*** *Based on the EU list of critical medicines, the Commission has performed a first vulnerability assessment on eleven medicines and will continue to implement its dedicated policy mandate in this field.*

*Within this context, For the purposes of the STEP Regulation, several of the following factors should be considered when determining whether technologies reduce or prevent strategic dependencies of the Union:*

1. ***Contributing to Union industrial and technological leadership****: Union industrial and technological leadership in the relevant STEP sectors referred to in STEP Guidelines section 2 would give the Union a competitive edge in the global technology landscape and help prevent dependencies. For example, STEP could support the development of advanced manufacturing techniques, such as additive manufacturing, which could enhance the Union’s competitive edge in high-tech industries.*
2. ***Contributing to critical infrastructures at European level:*** *unrestricted access to essential components and technologies will enable the development and manufacturing of the Union's critical infrastructures without risk of disruption or delay in supply.*
3. ***Increasing manufacturing capacity:*** *by increasing manufacturing capacity of critical raw materials, key components or value chains within the Union, where there is a risk of strategic dependency in the Union, some investments can directly reduce dependencies on third-country sources, thereby enhancing the Union’s self-sufficiency and resilience. For example, STEP could support the creation of manufacturing facilities for critical components and/or their value chain, such as battery facilities, semiconductor chips or pharmaceuticals.*
4. ***Strengthening security of supply:*** *enhancing the security of supply for critical inputs, components, and technologies in the Union presupposes a broad understanding that dependencies are to be managed collectively. A measure may address a regional security of supply issue, which in turn reinforces the Union’s ability to address supply disruptions and vulnerabilities effectively in any part of its territory. For example, STEP could support the onshoring of specific critical medicines production where there is a strategic dependency in the Union or via support to critical raw materials projects.*
5. ***Promoting positive cross-border effects in the internal market****: fostering cooperation and coordination within the internal market can help create resilient industry supply chains and downstream sectors. It also promotes a level playing field, thereby reducing distortions and enhancing overall competitiveness.)*

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| --- |
| [Taking into account the above guidance note, please provide, within max. 2,000 characters, how the Project reduce or prevent strategic dependencies of the Union.Please provide the following information in particular: * Please demonstrate that strategic dependency exists. Please provide to the extent possible, quantified data (e.g. statistical data on trade volumes, production volumes, consumption volumes, capacity deficiencies, etc.) to support your arguments
* If the Project contributes to **Union industrial and technological leadership**? If so, please provide a concrete explanation and arguments how?
* If the Project contributes to **critical infrastructures at European level**? If so, please provide a concrete explanation and arguments how?
* If the Project contributes to **increase of the manufacturing capacity**? If so, please provide a concrete explanation and arguments how?
* If the Project contributes to **strengthening security of supply**? If so, please provide a concrete explanation and arguments how?
* If the Project contributes to **promoting positive cross-border effects in the internal market**? If so, please provide a concrete explanation and arguments how?]
 |

# **CONTRIBUTION TO THE STEP OBJECTIVES**

## Alignment with the main STEP Objectives

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Step Objectives**  | **Please indicate which of the main STEP objective(s) are addressed by the Project**  |
| 1. Supporting the development or manufacturing of critical technologies throughout the Union or safeguarding and strengthening their respective value chains
 |  Supporting the development of critical technologies throughout the Union (please fill Section 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5) Supporting the manufacturing of critical technologies throughout the Union (please fill Section 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.6) safeguarding and strengthening their respective value chains (please fill Section 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.7) |
| 1. Addressing shortages of labor and skills critical to all kinds of quality jobs in support of the first objective
 |  Addressing shortages of labor and skills (please fill Section 4.3, 4.4, 4.8) |

## Economic Potential

*(Guidance: The significance of the economic potential should be assessed in terms of technologies that could address a variety of Union markets (rather than geographically limited markets) or to have a substantial impact on the development or manufacturing of the technology.*

*To the extent possible and where relevant, provide following information to strengthen the economic benefit arguments:*

***Characteristics of the overall target market and its needs***

|  |
| --- |
| *Complete for each of end product/service line* |
| *Indicative market*  | *Please explain the market that end product/service line will be eventually sold. Who will be the target market and ideal customer for the end product/service line?* |
| *Quantitative estimates of entire market:* |  |
| * *Historical volumes*
 |  |
| * *Expected development*
 |  |
| *Non-EU share (imports from non-EU) of the market* |  |
| *Competitors (outside EU)* |  |
| *Market type (perfect competition, monopolistic competition, oligopoly, and monopoly)* |  |
| *Competition drivers (cost, quality, know-how, distribution, etc.)*  |  |

***Identification of existing and potential key business partners***

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| --- |
| *Complete for each of product/service line* |
| ***Products/services***  | ***Enterprises/entities\**** | ***The specific need identified*** |
| *Buying/licensing the research-based outputs* |  |  |
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| *Research collaboration* |  |  |
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| *Application of the results of the Project* |  |  |
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***Identification of key non-commercial partners/stakeholders***

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| --- |
| *Complete for each of product/service line* |
| ***Type of stakeholders\****  |  |
| *Partners being scientific organizations* |  |
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| *Educational institutions that train and host staff in relevant professional fields* |  |
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| *Public authorities, that are part of the innovation ecosystem* |  |
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| *Other interested parties* |  |
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*\* Add as many lines as needed*

*Please explain further the* ***end products/service lines*** *that the Project outputs will contribute to and how they will be commercialized/brought to the market.*

*Please demonstrate the demand for the products and services that the Project outputs will contribute to and how they will be commercialized/brought to the market.*

***Demand analysis for the products/services***

|  |
| --- |
| *Complete for each of product/service line* |
| ***Products/services***  |  |
| *Potential uses* |  |
| *Values added* |  |
| *Quantitative estimates:* |  |
| * *Market size*
 |  |
| * *Volume of demand*
 |  |

*)*

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| --- |
| [*For the Projects falling under the STEP Objective no.1, describe potential economic benefits that the Project outcomes shall bring.* *Provide relevant information about the market.*  |

## Spill over effect

*(Guidance: STEP technologies are those which will likely carry the highest spillover effects in other Member States, which can increase the economic potential for the single market in line with recital 5 of the STEP Regulation.)*

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| --- |
| [Please provide, within max. 1,000 characters, an explanation about spillover effects of the Project. To the extent possible, please justify/quantify the cross border spillovers in terms of their positive contribution to growth, employment, and R&D investments.]  |

## Alignment with other relevant objectives (if applicable)

* + 1. Please indicate if the Project is recognized as one of the strategic projects in accordance with the relevant provision of the Net-Zero Industry .

*[Yes/No]*

*If yes, please explain*

|  |
| --- |
|  |

* + 1. Please indicate if the Project is recognized as one of the strategic projects in accordance with the relevant provision of the Critical Raw Materials Act

*[Yes/No]*

*If yes, please explain*

|  |
| --- |
|  |

* + 1. Please indicate if the Project is approved by the Commission as an important project of common European interest (IPCEI) pursuant to Article 107(3), point (b), TFEU relates to any of the technology referred to in paragraph 1, point (a), of this Article, the relevant technologies shall be deemed critical.[Yes/No]

*If yes, please explain*

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|  |

* + 1. Please indicate if the Project is related to one or more of the Critical Medicines[[4]](#footnote-4) as referred to in the Commission communication of 24 October 2023 entitled ‘Addressing medicine shortages in the EU’ and their components.[Yes/No]

*If yes,* , please indicate the names and code of the respective medicine and briefly explain how the project contributes to development and/or production of them and/or their value chains

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* + 1. Please indicate if the Project has been awarded a Sovereignty Seal by the Commission.

[Yes/No]

*If yes, please explain*

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| --- |
|  |

## Contribution to the STEP Objective: Supporting the **development** of critical technologies throughout the Union

* + 1. Brief Explanation of the contribution

|  |
| --- |
| [*Describe in max. 2,000 characters, the contribution of the project).* *Please specify the critical technology that will be developed.* Please specify to which end products and/or service lines will be supported by the developed critical technology? Please be as specific as possible. For example, if the project relates to establishing a R&D facility/laboratory, what critical services provided/products developed in the proposed facility and how they relate to STEP critical technologies or their respective value chains. Please refer to Section 4 for further information about STEP Objectives.Please explain how the project outcomes will contribute to the development of those end products/services or their respective value chains. For example, if the project is about development of proof of a concept, how this concept will relate to STEP critical technologies/value chains, what would be the next steps after the project, how production stage will be organized and an indicative timeline for the production stage, what specific capabilities might be required for the production, who are the potential producers of the project outcome and similar]. |

* + 1. Technology Stage

(Guidance: Please note that the development of advancing technologies from the stage where feasibility[[5]](#footnote-5) was demonstrated through to commercial production. This includes refining prototypes, and/or ensuring that technologies meet rigorous standards for performance and scalability. Development encompasses activities aimed at achieving technological breakthroughs, perfecting the technology for market needs, including enhancing its efficiency, reliability, and developing standards.)

[*Describe in max. 1,000 characters, where the proposed work is positioned in terms of R&I maturity (i.e. where it is situated in the spectrum from ‘idea to application’, or from ‘lab to market’).*

*Where applicable, provide an indication of the Technology Readiness Level, if possible distinguishing the start and by the end of the project.*

*Provide details about the maturity and market readiness of the technologies proposed and their capacity for attracting investments.]*

## Contribution to the STEP Objective: Supporting the **production** of critical technologies throughout the Union

* + 1. Brief Explanation of the contribution

|  |
| --- |
| [Describe in max. 2,000 characters, the contribution of the project). Please specify the critical technology that will be supported through production. Please specify to which end products will be produced and how they related to respective critical technology? Please explain how the production will be supported through the Project. For example, if a production facility will be established, please provide the past experience and organizational capacity for the proposed production. Please provide the planned capacity/increase and projected production/sales volumes. Provide details of required resources and planned capital investments for the production. Please be as specific as possible.] |

## Contribution to the STEP Objective: Safeguarding and strengthening their respective value chains

* + 1. Description of the contribution to the STEP Objective (if relevant to the Project)

*(Guidance: The project contribution on strengthening the entire value chain associated with the development or manufacturing of critical technologies to reduce the Union’s strategic dependencies and preserving the integrity of the internal market.*

*The value chain’ relates to:*

*- final products;*

*- specific components and specific machinery primarily used for the development and manufacturing of critical technologies. They have the potential to enhance technological innovation and production efficiency in the relevant critical technology sectors. Their development requires highly specialised equipment and expertise;*

*- critical raw materials set out in an Annex II to the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA) as defined in Annex II of the CRMA. A lot of the equipment and tools used in biotechnology research relies on critical raw materials, for example rare earths for the permanent magnets in magnetic resonance imaging devices, and platinum or titanium in implantable medical devices. The focus on these critical raw materials within the value chain is essential for ensuring that the Union's transition to a green economy and the competitiveness of its industry is not hindered by supply vulnerabilities;*

*- associated services critical for and specific to the development or manufacturing of those final products, including specialised services that are critical for and specific to the development and manufacturing of the final products within the scope of STEP. Associated services falling within the scope of STEP are considered to be those that are both critical for and specific to the relevant critical technology, in that for example they enhance its content and efficiency. Examples of associated services include cleanroom services for the manufacturing of semiconductors, cloud/edge computing services, high performance computing services, testing and experimentation services, cybersecurity services, space-based IoT and secure connectivity services specific to smart manufacturing, space-based positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT), services for real-time monitoring and tracking and specialised clinical trial management to develop new pharmaceutical products. Such associated services are eligible to receive funding under the scope of STEP as standalone projects. Ancillary services such as IT, advisory or legal activities, may only be supported via STEP if they are an inherent part of the investment cost of a STEP project, provided this is in line with the rules applicable to the Union instrument or Fund concerned. These services on their own do not qualify as a STEP project.*

*- technologies that fall under the scope of the Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA)[[6]](#footnote-6).)*

|  |
| --- |
| [If relevant to the Project, please provide, within max. 2,000 characters, how concretely the Project will contribute to strengthening the entire value chain associated with the development or manufacturing of critical technologies to reduce the Union’s strategic dependencies and preserving the integrity of the internal market.] |

## Contribution to the STEP Objective: Addressing shortages of labor and skills

* + 1. Description of the contribution to the STEP Objective (if relevant to the Project)

*(Guidance:* *The STEP Regulation recognises that the Union's ambitions to lead in the development and manufacturing of critical technologies hinge on overcoming significant labour and skills shortages. These shortages are particularly acute in some areas pivotal to the green and digital transition, a challenge that is set to intensify with demographic shifts. Addressing this gap is crucial for ensuring the success of technologies in the STEP sectors.*

*By facilitating investments in sector-specific training, life-long learning and education, the Regulation aims to ensure that the workforce is equipped with the specialised knowledge and skills essential for advancing the Union's capabilities in biotechnology. This approach to skills development is designed to directly support the growth and competitiveness of the Union's strategic sectors, with a particular emphasis on creating opportunities for young and disadvantaged individuals who are currently outside the employment, education, or training systems, also with a view to realising the full potential of the green and digital transitions in a socially fair, inclusive, and just manner. The STEP Regulation is complementary to the broader European Skills Agenda and other skills specific sector initiatives, focusing specifically on closing the skills gap in areas critical for the success of the STEP sectors. STEP projects are encouraged to build on existing projects and initiatives linked to the sectors to be addressed, such as those developed by the EU Pact for Skills, or by the European Skills Agenda Centres of Vocational Excellence. Therefore, the STEP Regulation targets the skill sets relevant to the development and manufacturing of critical technologies across the STEP sectors, while creating quality jobs and apprenticeships. Broader and transferable skills could be considered in accordance with fund-specific rules.*

*The STEP Regulation highlights the crucial role of European Net-Zero Industry Academies, established under the NZIA. Pursuant to Article 12 of the STEP Regulation, Member States may use their ESF+ resources for skills development in netzero technologies.)*

|  |
| --- |
| [If relevant to the Project, please provide, within max. 2,000 characters, how concretely the Project will contribute to addressing shortages of labour and skills.] |

# **SCOPE OF PROJECT**

## Project results

* + 1. Please explain the main results be achieved by the Project

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| --- |
|  |

## Project Outputs

* + 1. Please list the Projects outputs

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Project Output** | **Measurement unit** | **Target value for the major project**  | **Target year** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

* + 1. Please describe each Project output

|  |
| --- |
| *[Please provide details of the outputs (e.g. size, nature, contracting method, etc.). For example, if the project includes rehabilitation of an existing facility/space, please provide the size (m2) of the space to be rehabilitated, demonstrate the direct link of the space with the project outcomes, explain the existing conditions and purpose of use of the space, nature of the rehabilitation works, and similar]* |

## Project activities

*(Guidance: The activities that will be financed under the Project’s budget must be listed and their scope needs to be explained. It is necessary to specify which entities (leader and partners) and their role in carrying out the activities/sub-activities in which they are involved).*

* + 1. Please explain the Project Activities

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Activity Description**  | **Related Project Output** | **Estimated Budget**  | **Implementing partner** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

* + 1. Please provide the calculation method for the estimated budget and justify the estimated budget for each activity

*(Guidance: Please note that construction of new units/buildings shall not be the main purpose of a project under STEP component. To the extent possible, rehabilitation/renovation of existing spaces should be preferred. Please provide justification for the unit costs (in reference to the market/industry standards) and estimated quantities for each activity).*

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# **TOTAL COST**

## Please complete table below taking into account the following

1. Ineligible costs comprise (i) expenditure outside the eligibility period, (ii) expenditure ineligible under applicable EU and national rules, (iii) other expenditure not presented for co-financing.
2. Contingencies should not exceed 10% of total cost net of contingencies. These contingencies may be included in the total eligible costs used to calculate the planned contribution of the funds.
3. A price adjustment may be included, where relevant, to cover expected inflation where the eligible cost values are in constant prices.
4. Recoverable VAT is ineligible. Where VAT is considered eligible, please give reasons.
5. Total cost must include all costs incurred for the project.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **EUR** | **Total cost****(A)** | **Ineligible costs****(B)** | **eligible costs****(C)=(A)-(B)** | **Percentage of total eligible costs** |
| **1** | **Research Investments** |  |  |  |  |
| a | Infrastructure (rehabilitation/ modernisation/building) |  |  |  |  |
| b | Human resources (researchers, internships)  |  |  |  |  |
| c | Consumables |  |  |  |  |
| d | Plant and machinery or equipment |  |  |  |  |
| **2** | **Production Investments** |  |  |  |  |
| a | Infrastructure |  |  |  |  |
| b | Plant and machinery or equipment |  |  |  |  |
| **3** | **Investments for upskilling the labor** |  |  |  |  |
| a | Infrastructure |  |  |  |  |
| b | Human resources (researchers, internships)  |  |  |  |  |
| c | Consumables |  |  |  |  |
| d | Plant and machinery or equipment |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | Contingencies |  |  |  |  |

# **TIMETABLE**

## Project timetable

* + 1. Please give below the timetable for the development and implementation of the overall project. Where the application concerns a project stage, clearly indicate in the table the elements of the overall project for which assistance is being sought by this application:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Activities** | **Start date(A)****(1)** | **Completion date(B)****(1)** |
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|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| (1) If already complete - please give exact date, if only planned – please give at least month and year |

# **PROJECT MATURITY**

## Technical maturity of the Project

|  |
| --- |
| *[Please describe, within maximum 1,500 characters, the level of readiness of the project to start the activities/investments. Please explain if any prior work has been done. Please describe all relevant prerequisites for the commencement of the project investments/activities such as feasibility studies, project design, list of equipment, technical specifications, permits, approvals etc.]* |

# **VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AID RULES**

## Do you consider that this project involves the granting of State aid?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes |  |  | No |  |

*If yes, please fill in the table below[[7]](#footnote-7)[1]:*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Amount of aid (EUR) in GGE(1)* | *Total amount of eligible cost (EUR)(2)* | *Aid intensity* *(in %)* | *State aid number / registry number for block-exempted aid* |
| *Approved aid scheme or approved individual aid* |  |  |  |  |
| *Aid falling under a block exemption regulation* |  |  |  |  |
| *Total aid granted*  |  | *Not applicable* | *Not applicable* | *Not applicable* |
| *(1) Gross grant equivalent (GGE) means the discounted value of the aid expressed as a percentage of the discounted value of the eligible costs, as calculated at the time of award of the aid on the basis of the reference rate applicable on that date.**(2) State aid rules include provisions on eligible cost. In this column Member States should indicate the total amount of eligible cost based on the State aid rules that have been applied.* |

***If no,*** *please explain in detail the basis for establishing that the project does not involve state aid[[8]](#footnote-8)[2]. Please provide this information for all groups of potential State aid recipients, for example, in case of infrastructures, for the owner, the constructors, the operator and for the users of an infrastructure. If applicable, please indicate whether the reason why you consider that the project does not involve State aid is that (i) the project does not concern any economic activity (including activities in the public remit) or that (ii) the recipient(s) of support enjoy a legal monopoly for the relevant activities and are not active in any other liberalised sector (or will keep separate accounts in case the recipient(s) are active in additional sectors).*

# **ANNEX 1 - LIST OF THE TECHNOLOGIES MENTIONED IN THE ANNEX TO THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION THAT ARE CONSIDERE RELEVANT FOR STEP**

## **Digital technologies**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Digital technology areas** | **Technologies (indicative, non-exhaustive)** |
| Advanced semiconductors technologies | Microelectronics, including processors; photonic including high energy laser technologies; high frequency chips; semiconductor manufacturing equipment at very advanced node sizes; space-qualified semiconductor technologies |
| Artificial intelligence technologies | AI algorithms; high performance computing (HPC); cloud and edge computing; data analytics technologies; computer vision, language processing, object recognition; privacy-preserving technologies (e.g., federated learning) |
| Quantum technologies | Quantum computing; quantum cryptography; quantum communications; Quantum Key Distribution (QKD); quantum sensing including quantum gravimetry; quantum radar; quantum simulation; quantum imaging; quantum clocks; metrology; space-qualified quantum technologies |
| Advanced connectivity, navigation, and digital technologies | Secure digital communications and connectivity, such as RAN (Radio Access Network) & Open RAN (Radio Access Network), and 5G and 6G; cyber security technologies including cyber- surveillance, security and intrusion systems, digital forensics; internet of things and virtual reality; distributed ledger and digital identity technologies; guidance, navigation, and control technologies, including avionics and maritime positioning, and space-based PNT; satellite-based secure connectivity |
| Advanced sensing technologies | Electro-optical, radar, chemical, biological, radiation and distributed sensing; magnetometers, magnetic gradiometers; underwater electric field sensors; gravity meters, and gradiometers |
| Robotics and autonomous systems | Autonomous habited and uninhabited vehicles (space, air, land, surface, and underwater), including swarming; robots and robot-controlled precision systems; exoskeletons; AI-enabled systems |

## **Clean and resource efficient technologies**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Clean and resource efficient technology areas as defined under the NZIA** | **Clean and resource efficient technologies as defined under the NZIA** |
| Solar technologies | Solar photovoltaic technologies; solar thermal electric technologies; solar thermal technologies; other solar technologies |
| Onshore wind and offshore renewable technologies | Onshore wind technologies; offshore renewable technologies |
| Battery and energy storage technologies | Battery technologies; energy storage technologies |
| Heat pumps and geothermal energy technologies | Heat pump technologies; geothermal energy technologies |
| Hydrogen technologies | Electrolysers; hydrogen fuel cells; other hydrogen technologies |
| Sustainable biogas and biomethane technologies | Sustainable biogas technologies; sustainable bio-methane technologies |
| Carbon capture and storage technologies | Carbon capture technologies; carbon storage technologies |
| Electricity grid technologies | Electricity grid technologies; electric charging technologies for transportation; technologies to digitalise the grid; other electricity grid technologies |
| Nuclear fission technologies | Nuclear fission energy technologies; nuclear fuel cycle technologies |
| Sustainable alternative fuels technologies | Sustainable alternative fuels technologies |
| Hydropower technologies | Hydropower technologies |
| Other renewable energy technologies | Osmotic energy technologies; ambient energy technologies, other than heat pumps; biomass technologies; landfill gas technologies; sewage treatment plant gas technologies; other renewable energy technologies |
| Energy system-related energy efficiency technologies | Energy system-related energy efficiency technologies; heat grid technologies; other energy system-related energy efficiency technologies |
| Renewable fuels of non-biological origin technologies | Renewable fuels of non-biological origin technologies |
| Biotech climate and energy solutions | Biotech climate and energy solutions |
| Transformative industrial technologies for decarbonisation | Transformative industrial technologies for decarbonisation |
| CO2 transport and utilisation technologies | CO2 transport technologies; CO2 utilisation technologies |
| Wind and electric propulsion technologies for transportation | Wind propulsion technologies; electric propulsion technologies |
| Other nuclear technologies | Other nuclear technologies |

The table below lists technologies covered in the NZIA Article 4 and its Annex.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Clean and resource efficient technology areas as defined under the NZIA** | **Clean and resource efficient technologies as defined under the NZIA** |
| Solar technologies | Solar photovoltaic technologies; solar thermal electric technologies; solar thermal technologies; other solar technologies |
| Onshore wind and offshore renewable technologies | Onshore wind technologies; offshore renewable technologies |
| Battery and energy storage technologies | Battery technologies; energy storage technologies |
| Heat pumps and geothermal energy technologies | Heat pump technologies; geothermal energy technologies |
| Hydrogen technologies | Electrolysers; hydrogen fuel cells; other hydrogen technologies |
| Sustainable biogas and biomethane technologies | Sustainable biogas technologies; sustainable bio-methane technologies |
| Carbon capture and storage technologies | Carbon capture technologies; carbon storage technologies |
| Electricity grid technologies | Electricity grid technologies; electric charging technologies for transportation; technologies to digitalise the grid; other electricity grid technologies |
| Nuclear fission technologies | Nuclear fission energy technologies; nuclear fuel cycle technologies |
| Sustainable alternative fuels technologies | Sustainable alternative fuels technologies |
| Hydropower technologies | Hydropower technologies |
| Other renewable energy technologies | Osmotic energy technologies; ambient energy technologies, other than heat pumps; biomass technologies; landfill gas technologies; sewage treatment plant gas technologies; other renewable energy technologies |
| Energy system-related energy efficiency technologies | Energy system-related energy efficiency technologies; heat grid technologies; other energy system-related energy efficiency technologies |
| Renewable fuels of non-biological origin technologies | Renewable fuels of non-biological origin technologies |
| Biotech climate and energy solutions | Biotech climate and energy solutions |
| Transformative industrial technologies for decarbonisation | Transformative industrial technologies for decarbonisation |
| CO2 transport and utilisation technologies | CO2 transport technologies; CO2 utilisation technologies |
| Wind and electric propulsion technologies for transportation | Wind propulsion technologies; electric propulsion technologies |
| Other nuclear technologies | Other nuclear technologies |

The Commission’s Recommendation on critical technology areas for the Union’s economic security [(21)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/3209/oj#ntr21-C_202403209EN.000101-E0021) provides an indication of certain critical clean and resource efficient technologies. The table below constitutes an indicative and non-exhaustive list of clean and resource efficient technologies relevant for STEP.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Other clean and resource efficient technology areas** | **Other clean and resource efficient technologies (indicative, non-exhaustive)** |
| Advanced materials, manufacturing and recycling technologies | Technologies for nanomaterials; smart materials; advanced ceramic materials; stealth materials; safe and sustainable by design materials; additive manufacturing; digital controlled micro-precision manufacturing and small-scale laser machining/welding; technologies for extraction; processing and recycling of critical raw materials and other components (e.g. catalyst, batteries), including hydrometallurgical extraction, bioleaching, nanotechnology-based filtration, electrochemical processing and black mass |
| Technologies vital to sustainability such as water purification and desalination | Purification and desalination technologies |
| Circular economy technologies | Technologies for the reuse and recycling of electronics (e-waste); circular bioeconomy technologies (e.g., for converting waste to valuable bio-based materials or energy) |

## **Biotechnologies**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Biotechnology areas**[**(24)**](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/3209/oj#ntr24-C_202403209EN.000101-E0024) | **Biotechnologies (indicative, non-exhaustive)** |
| DNA/RNA | Genomics; pharmacogenomics; gene probes; genetic engineering; DNA/RNA sequencing/synthesis/amplification; gene expression profiling, and use of antisense technology; large-scale DNA synthesis; new genomic techniques; gene drive. |
| Proteins and other molecules | Sequencing/synthesis/engineering/manufacturing of proteins and peptides (including large molecule hormones); improved delivery methods for large molecule drugs; proteomics; protein isolation and purification; signalling; identification of cell receptors; developing polyclonal products. |
| Cell and tissue culture and engineering | Cell/tissue culture; tissue engineering (including tissue scaffolds and biomedical engineering); cellular fusion; marker assisted breeding technologies; metabolic engineering; cell therapies; bioprinting of cells/replacement organs |
| Process biotechnology techniques | Fermentation using bioreactors; biorefining; bioprocessing; bioleaching; biopulping; biobleaching; biodesulphurisation; bioremediation; biosensing; biofiltration and phytoremediation; molecular aquaculture; protection and decontamination including human decontaminating agents; biocatalysis, novel test techniques suitable for high throughput screening; process improvement and delivery optimisation for biopharmaceuticals and advanced therapy medicinal products |
| Gene and RNA vectors | Gene therapy; viral vectors |
| Bioinformatics | Construction of databases on genomes; protein sequences; modelling complex biological processes; including systems biology; developing personalised genomics |
| Nanobiotechnology | Application of the tools and processes of nano/microfabrication to build devices for studying biosystems and applications in drug delivery, diagnostics, manufacturing. |

1. Biotechnologies should be understood to be the application of science and technology to living organisms, as well as parts, products and models thereof, to alter living or non-living materials for the production of knowledge, goods and services, including the technologies referred to in the statistical definition of biotechnology of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, as well as the Union List of Critical Medicines as referred to in the Commission communication of 24 October 2023 entitled ‘Addressing medicine shortages in the EU’ and their components. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. If more than one body is responsible for implementation, include information on the lead beneficiary (others will be mentioned in point ….). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC (OJ L 124, 20.5.2003, p. 36). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory-overview/post-authorisation/medicine-shortages-and-availability-issues/availability-critical-medicines> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The feasibility stage refers to TRL level 3. Details of the Technology Readiness Level TRL and a self-assessment TRL tool can be found on the NCP Portal TRL Assessment | NCP Portal management | Horizon Europe NCP Portal. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on establishing a framework of measures for strengthening Europe’s net zero technology products manufacturing ecosystem (Net-Zero Industry Act), politically agreed on 6 February 2024, not yet published. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. [1] This application does not replace notification to the Commission under Article 108(3) of the Treaty. A positive decision by the Commission on the major project under Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 does not constitute state aid approval. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. [2] The Commission services provided guidance to Member States to facilitate the assessment when infrastructure investments involve State aid. In particular, the Commission services have prepared analytical grids. A Communication on the notion of aid is currently in preparation. The Commission invites Member States to make use of the analytical grids or of other methods for explaining why it is considered that the support does not involve the granting of State aid. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)