HEDGE-IoT

*Holistic approach towards Empowerment of the Digitalization of the Energy Ecosystem through adoption of IoT solutions*

# HEDGE IoT Open Call 2

## Guidelines for Applicants

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

## 1.1 OVERVIEW OF THE HEDGE-IOT OPEN CALL 2

This document summarizes the main features of the HEDGE-IoT Open Call 2 for third parties under the HEDGE-IoT Funding Programme.

**Open Call 2:**

- **Applications Period:** Opens June 25th, 2026, Closes August 25th, 2026
- **Evaluation & Selection:** August 25th, 2026 – October 10th 2026
- **Contracting:** October 10th, 2026 – November 30th 2026
- **Project Execution:** December 2026 – May 2027

The call invites developers and integrators to enhance and expand upon HEDGE-IoT's existing technology stack by contributing innovative services and applications in IoT ecosystems for smart energy management and intelligent grid solutions.

This guide complements the official Open Call 2 announcement and the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), both published on the official website of the HEDGE IoT project (https://hedgeiot.eu/open-call-2/) and the Proposal Template (also included on https://hedgeiot.eu/open-call-2/).

Applicants are strongly advised to consult all three sources prior to submitting their application. Clarifications and requirements provided through the FAQs section form an integral part of the Open Call's conditions and are binding, even if not explicitly repeated in this Guide for Applicants.

## 1.2 TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION OF HEDGE-IOT

HEDGE-IoT proposes a novel Digital Framework which aims to deploy IoT assets at different levels of the energy system (from behind-the-meter, up to the TSO level), to add intelligence to the edge and cloud layers through advanced AI/ML tools and to bridge the cloud/edge continuum introducing federated applications governed by advanced computational orchestration solutions. The HEDGE-IoT Framework will upgrade the RES-hosting capacity of the energy systems, unleash a previously untapped flexibility potential, leveraging on IoT solutions and will increase the resilience of the grid towards the digitalization of the energy sector, and the advancements in IoT standardization.

## 1.3 SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

HEDGE-IoT seeks solutions addressing:

- Enhanced energy efficiency through IoT-enabled demand response.
- Grid stabilization and flexibility management via predictive analytics.
- Integration of IoT platforms with advanced AI for real-time energy balancing.
- Secure data exchange and communication protocols adhering to industry standards

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

## 1.4 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

Proposals should clearly align with and extend the HEDGE-IoT framework, demonstrating interoperability with established communication standards (such as CIM, MQTT, REST APIs) and providing tangible added value through innovative technical enhancements.

## 1.5 TOPICS

The following topics provide the thematic and practical context for proposals in HEDGE IoT Open Call 2. Applicants must select and address only one of the topics.

### TOPIC 1: Solutions that Enhance primary transformer 110kV/20kV rating based on thermal conditions (Cooperation with the Finnish Pilot)

Further details on the Finnish pilot, including the underlying technology, key use cases, HEDGE-IoT tools involved, and target audiences and beneficiaries, are available on https://hedgeiot.eu/demo-site-finland/.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Scope & expected results** | The objective is to unlock the primary transformer's dynamic capacity by utilizing for instance ambient temperature and/or thermal inertia of the transformer. In arctic environments, ambient air temperatures remain significantly lower for most of the year compared to the warm-weather design thresholds typically applied. This temperature advantage, together with the potential use of mechanical cooling devices, can be leveraged to enhance the transformer's operational rating. An optional feature that can be added to the transformer thermal rating is the thermal rating of the cables between the primary transformers and the busbars. Unlocking the cable thermal rating enables the full utilization of the transformer's thermal capacity.<br>The proposed solutions are expected to increase the primary transformer loading capability with low operational risk and high efficiency. The outcomes will be aligned with, and made compatible with, the HEDGE-IoT load and state estimation and forecasting functionalities, supporting the broader HEDGE-IoT congestion management framework. |
| **Datasets available** | • Primary transformer loading measurements<br>• Ambient air temperature |
| **Tools & infrastructure offered** | Applicants are expected to propose tools that enable dynamic primary transformer rating based on thermal conditions, optionally complemented by mechanical cooling and by cable thermal rating. There is also potential for broader alignment |

Co-funded by the European Union
This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

with the HEDGE – IoT stack, depending on further discussions with applicants and the overall system architecture.

## TOPIC 2: Solutions that enhance grid resiliency with combined autonomous UAS's (Unmanned Autonomous System) and fault sensors (Cooperation with the Finnish Pilot)

Further details on the Finnish pilot, including the underlying technology, key use cases, HEDGE-IoT tools involved, and target audiences and beneficiaries, are available on https://hedgeiot.eu/demo-site-finland/.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Scope & expected results** | The object is to enhance resiliency of a 20 kV overhead line in a rural arctic environment. The concept is to utilize autonomous UAS capabilities together with local fault sensors installed at the end of the feeder, particularly in the areas where conventional grid investments are not economically viable. Sensor data, combined with HEDGE-IoT fault-anomaly analytics, would serve as the basis for initiating autonomous UAV inspection workflows in remote arctic regions.<br>The expected outcome is to demonstrate the feasibility of sensor driven analytics for triggering autonomous inspection processes under arctic conditions. The intention of this call is not to focus resources on learning or developing basic UAS operational skills, which are already available, but rather to combine and align the relevant technologies into a coherent and interoperable solution. |
| **Datasets available** | • Grid topology from the area<br>• Fault analysis data from the area |
| **Tools & infrastructure offered** | Applicants are expected to provide reliable tools and demonstrated capability for conducting UAS missions in arctic environments. Experience with fault-sensor technologies and related analysis is also required. Within the project the applicant is expected to deliver tools that enable the combination of HEDGE-IoT analysis, local sensor data analytics, and autonomous drone-based inspection workflows.<br>The focus of the call is on integrating and aligning these technologies into a coherent solution, rather than allocating resources to basic operational training or foundational UAS skill development. There is also potential for broader alignment with the HEDGE – IoT stack, depending on further discussions with applicants and the overall system architecture. |

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

## TOPIC 3: Energy resource forecasting models – Scalable edge-level solutions enabling distributed optimization of DERs (Cooperation with the Greek Pilot)

Further details on the Greek pilot, including the underlying technology, key use cases, HEDGE-IoT tools involved, and target audiences and beneficiaries, are available on https://hedgeiot.eu/demo-site-greece/.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Scope & expected results** | Develop lightweight forecasting models deployable at the edge to **support DSO congestion management** by predicting residential energy demand and generation. Models should focus on both **active** and **reactive** power and aim for efficient, low-computation operation suitable for deployment on edge devices. |
| **Datasets available** | • Submetering data from residential assets<br>• Grid local measurements.<br>• Weather data. |
| **Tools & infrastructure offered** | • Forecasting models for benchmarking<br>• Testing environments for edge deployment.<br><br>*(Software architecture and technical requirements from the Greek demo will be provided. Selected models may be integrated into the HEDGE-IoT App Store for reuse.)* |

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

## TOPIC 4: Non-Intrusive Load Monitoring for Device-Level Visibility (Cooperation with the Greek Pilot)

Further details on the Greek pilot, including the underlying technology, key use cases, HEDGE-IoT tools involved, and target audiences and beneficiaries, are available on https://hedgeiot.eu/demo-site-greece/.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Scope & expected results** | Develop and test models that can identify active appliances within households without requiring additional hardware (e.g., plug-level meters).<br>The goal is to enhance device-level visibility using whole-home consumption data. |
| **Datasets available** | • Time series energy consumption data from residential assets.<br>• Device – level usage data (where available). |
| **Tools & infrastructure offered** | • Benchmarking models for load disaggregation<br>• Finetuning datasets for algorithm adaptation.<br><br>*(Integration with internal HEDGE-IoT applications and testing against vision models for further optimization will be supported.)* |

## TOPIC 5: AI-driven predictive flexibility pricing models – Development of dynamic pricing algorithms that optimize flexibility bids based on congestion and market conditions (Cooperation with the Greek Pilot)

Further details on the Greek pilot, including the underlying technology, key use cases, HEDGE-IoT tools involved, and target audiences and beneficiaries, are available on https://hedgeiot.eu/demo-site-greece/.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Scope & expected results** | Design and test algorithms for dynamic pricing and optimal bidding strategies in day-ahead and intraday electricity markets. The solutions should propose consumer incentive mechanisms and align with real market conditions and congestion signals. |
| **Datasets available** | • Submetering data from residential assets<br>• Energy market data and asset availability data<br>• Simulated consumer behavior datasets. |
| **Tools & infrastructure offered** | Reference models for consumer behavior and bidding strategies<br><br>*(Selected solutions will be validated in a test environment and compared to existing HEDGE-IoT bidding strategy tools.)* |

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

## TOPIC 6: DSO Perimeters for flexibility resources pre-qualification (Cooperation with the Italian Pilot)

Further details on the Italian pilot, including the underlying technology, key use cases, HEDGE-IoT tools involved, and target audiences and beneficiaries, are available on https://hedgeiot.eu/demo-site-italy/.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Scope & expected results** | Design and validate algorithms that define DSO perimeters suitable for forming Virtual Power Plants (VPPs) within the distribution grid. The goal is to identify "electrical cells" where resource pooling is feasible for more than 90% of the year. Solutions should combine DSO data with external open data sources (e.g., weather, social events) to simulate the impact of future conditions on grid configurations.<br>Applicants are expected to develop deployable modules that can operate within the HEDGE-IoT ecosystem and facilitate flexibility clustering at the community level. |
| **Datasets available** | • SCADA data (grid topology, historical configuration changes)<br>• GIS data (geospatial representation of grid assets)<br>• Grid and customer-level load and production measurements<br>• Open data (e.g., weather conditions, event-based inputs)<br><br>These datasets may be aligned with existing HEDGE-IoT ontologies or accessed through data exchange frameworks that support the project's semantic interoperability goals. |
| **Tools & infrastructure offered** | • Containerized deployment approach (e.g., Docker)<br>• Target execution environments: DSO's ADMS Kubernetes (K8s) Cluster and HEDGE-IoT Marketplace<br>• Applicants are expected to provide their own development and test environments<br><br>Developed modules should be compatible with the HEDGE-IoT Marketplace architecture and support interoperability through Dockerized microservices and Kubernetes orchestration. |

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

## TOPIC 7: Standardized IoT & Data-Sharing Protocols – Development of open APIs and middleware that enable seamless integration of smart-grid assets for secure and explainable data exchange (Cooperation with the Dutch Pilot)

Further details on the Dutch pilot, including the underlying technology, key use cases, HEDGE-IoT tools involved, and target audiences and beneficiaries, are available on https://hedgeiot.eu/demo-site-the-netherlands/.

**Scope & expected results**

Innovative SME solutions that plug into our Semantic Interoperability Framework through semantic adapters. Applicants should prototype at least one—and preferably a combination—of the following value-adding services:

1. AI-driven anomaly-detection service that spots (technical) abnormal behavior in energy nodes on for example Phase / voltage unbalance, power factor, current outliers etc. and suggest corrective actions, thereby enhancing resilience.
2. Role-based real-time dashboards that visualize KPIs and alarms for distinct stakeholder groups in a business-park context (e.g. facility managers, tenants, DSO).
3. An explainability service that leverages energy optimization algorithms used to balance assets in the Electricity Campus to provide insights to diverse stakeholder groups (e.g., facility managers, tenants, DSOs), based on the available semantically enriched data representations.
4. Digital twin of the campus energy system that integrates live and historical data from heterogeneous energy nodes and supports what-if analysis.

Solutions must expose data and control endpoints via semantic adapters that map to the campus ontology (compatible with ETSI SAREF (https://saref.etsi.org/) / CIM (IEC 61970, IEC 61968 and 62325 series)) and to the Knowledge engine (www.knowledge-engine.eu).

**Datasets available**

- Access to representative telemetry data streams from the Electricity Campus
- A historical archive of campus measurements for algorithm training and benchmarking.

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

- Example semantic models and device metadata that illustrate how current campus assets are described in HEDGE-IoT.
- An Electricity Campus knowledge graph representing data streams in RDF using SAREF and other relevant ontologies.

**Tools & infrastructure offered**

- A hosted interoperability middleware layer
- A basic security test environment to validate compliance with EU cyber-security guidelines.
- An Energy Management System that offers an energy optimization algorithm to balance assets in the Electricity Campus

## TOPIC 8: Standardized DER-Integration Solutions for Smart Grids" – Smart control & monitoring of heat pumps, PV, batteries, V2G chargers and building equipment (Cooperation with the Dutch Pilot)

Further details on the Dutch pilot, including the underlying technology, key use cases, HEDGE-IoT tools involved, and target audiences and beneficiaries, are available on x https://hedgeiot.eu/demo-site-the-netherlands/.

**Scope & expected results**

Integrate via the knowledge engine (www.knowledge-engine.eu) a modular EMS/BMS component or (micro)service—deployable on edge or cloud—that preferably combines:

- day-ahead and intra-day forecasting & scheduling of campus DERs (PV, batteries, heat pumps, V2G, building loads) and potential external factors;
- standardized flexibility offers / instructions via the semantic framework;
- a human-in-the-loop interface so facility staff can review or override schedules;
- an explainability service providing facility staff with insights based on semantically enriched energy optimization data.

Demonstrate measurable KPI improvements during a supervised pilot (e.g. peak-load shaving, self-consumption, $CO_2$ reduction).

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Datasets available** | • Access to representative telemetry data streams from the Electricity Campus assets (for example (via) Building Management systems for heat pumps, PV inverters, stationary batteries, and V2G chargers, building loads).<br>• Optional (open source) contextual data feeds such as weather forecasts and dynamic grid-tariff signals.<br>• An Electricity Campus knowledge graph representing data streams in RDF using SAREF (https://saref.etsi.org/) and other relevant ontologies. |
| **Tools & infrastructure offered** | • A hosted interoperability middleware layer<br>• A basic security test environment to validate compliance with EU cyber-security guidelines.<br>• Remote access to a testbed where control strategies can be validated on real hardware. |

## TOPIC 9: Cross-border flexibility value chain and market integration (Cooperation with the Portuguese Pilot)

Further details on the Portuguese pilot, including the underlying technology, key use cases, HEDGE-IoT tools involved, and target audiences and beneficiaries, are available on https://hedgeiot.eu/demo-site-portugal/.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Scope & expected results** | Enable third parties (especially SMEs) to develop, test, and validate services along the entire flexibility value chain, including aggregation, bidding, activation, and settlement for participation in national and cross-border energy markets. Applicants are expected to connect diverse flexibility providers (residential, industrial, tertiary) to system operators (TSOs/DSOs), focusing on ancillary services, day-ahead market participation, and interoperable service deployment. The topic aims to demonstrate the scalability and replicability of such services using HEDGE-IoT's hybrid edge-cloud infrastructure, while promoting data sovereignty, semantic interoperability, and interaction across stakeholders. |
| **Datasets available** | • High-resolution data from IoT/edge devices and DERs (e.g., PVs, batteries, EVs, heat pumps, building assets)<br>• Data from industrial and residential assets relevant to flexibility services<br>• Market-related datasets:<br>  ○ Flexibility needs<br>  ○ Consumer metering and baseline data<br>  ○ Bidding info and market results<br>  ○ Activation setpoints and settlement/payment data |

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

- Forecasting data (demand/generation) and historical logs
- SAREF-aligned semantic datasets and models shared via data space connectors

**Tools & infrastructure offered**

- EdgeConnect platform – facilitating flexibility service creation and market participation
- Market Simulator – supporting bidding, activation, and settlement for ancillary services
- OptiFlex – forecasting, scheduling, valorization of flexibility
- HEDGE-IoT edge/cloud computing infrastructure
- AI/ML tools for energy forecasting and flexibility optimization
- Data space connectors (e.g., Eclipse Data Space Connector - EDC) enabling cross-organizational data sharing
- KubeEdge orchestration framework for workload management
- Semantic interoperability modules and Kube Prometheus for system monitoring
- Components for data access control, policy mediation, and secure data exchange

## TOPIC 10: Load Disaggregation at the Substation Level (Cooperation with the Slovenian Pilot)

Further details on the Slovenian pilot, including the underlying technology, key use cases, HEDGE-IoT tools involved, and target audiences and beneficiaries, are available on x https://hedgeiot.eu/demo-site-slovenia/.

**Scope & expected results**

Develop a solution that identifies different types of distributed energy resources (e.g., PV installations, heat pumps) from aggregated demand measurements at the substation level, without requiring additional hardware installation. A specific algorithm needs to be developed for this purpose by the applicant, with the additional objective of defining the minimum required dataset for the functional service. The goal is to enhance observability of the grid, support DER integration, and improve forecasting. Since the Slovenian demo focuses on developing a similar algorithm limited to PV detection, the accuracy of the newly developed algorithm will be compared to that of the applicants' solution.

**Datasets available**

- Active and reactive power measurements at the substation level.

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

| | |
|---|---|
| | • Weather data.<br>• Publicly available datasets of electricity consumption or generation by the type of DER. |
| **Tools & infrastructure offered** | ML algorithm developed within the Slovenian demo with the similar aim as the newly developed algorithm by the applicant that can be used for benchmarking the solution and verifying the accuracy. |

## TOPIC 11: Integration of Data Space Connectors compliant with the new Data Space Protocol showcasing scalability and technology agnostic connectivity

| | |
|---|---|
| **Scope & expected results** | • Integration of Data Space Connector implementations (other than the Eclipse or the One-Net Data Space connectors that are already part of the HEDGE-IoT ecosystem) into the HEDGE-IoT Framework<br>• Verification of successful data sharing and exchange through the new Connector among HEDGE-IoT users<br>• Showcase of interoperability across Data spaces and ecosystem expansion |
| **Datasets available** | Test Datasets to be created (e.g. Smart Meter data, Grid Operational data, Renewable Generation data, Energy Market and Trading data) to verify a successful data exchange between interconnected actors. Datasets should be aligned with semantic standards (e.g., RDF) to validate semantic interoperability. |
| **Tools & infrastructure offered** | • Information on the Existing Data Space Framework of the HEDGE-IoT project and the base components.<br>• HEDGE-IoT Reference Architecture<br>• Interoperable interfaces with the HEDGE-IoT framework |

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

## TOPIC 12: AI-Enhanced Data App Discovery & Recommendation Engine

| | |
|---|---|
| **Scope & expected results** | • Development of an AI-based chatbox to facilitate the discoverability of Apps in the HEDGE-IoT App Store based on the needs of a user<br>• Ability to parse metadata from registered apps and infer utility<br>• Plugin based integration with the HEDGE-IoT App Store interface |
| **Datasets available** | • List of registered Apps in the App Store with relevant attributes<br>• Keywords on functionality of each App (depending on App)<br>• Input/Output datasets of each App |
| **Tools & infrastructure offered** | • HEDGE-IoT App Store Access (user access, access to integration API endpoints) |

## TOPIC 13: Semantic Mapper as a Service: A cloud-native or edge-deployable toll to map proprietary or heterogeneous data schemas to the HEDGE-IoT ontologies

| | |
|---|---|
| **Scope & expected results** | • Support for mapping input JSON/XML/CSV schemas to target ontologies.<br>• Integration with ETSI SAREF, SAREF4ENER, and optionally other ontologies (e.g., SAREF4GRID).<br>• Compliance with the recently published ETSI EN 303 760 "SAREF Guidelines for IoT Semantic Interoperability; Develop, apply and evolve Smart Applications ontologies" |
| **Datasets available** | HEDGE-IoT Ontologies |
| **Tools & infrastructure offered** | HEDGE-IoT App Store<br>Hedge-IoT Connector |

## TOPIC 14: End-To-End Interoperability for Energy AI Services Across ODEON Platform & HEDGE-IoT Dataspaces

| | |
|---|---|
| **Scope & expected results** | This challenge asks participants to demonstrate end-to-end energy service workflow across HEDGE-IoT and ODEON projects. Participants must first create a Data App which is trained, registered, and executed in the HEDGE-IoT ecosystem. As a second step they must securely request input |

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

| | |
|---|---|
| | data from the ODEON platform and publish the generated results back to ODEON.<br>Participants must develop an energy Data App using their own data, or simulated data. The Data App should support an energy service such as forecasting, optimization, anomaly detection, flexibility estimation, or similar. The app must be registered in the HEDGE-IoT App Store / Open Services Catalogue.<br>Participants must then create an account in the ODEON project platform, discover and request access to a relevant ODEON data asset, accept or negotiate usage conditions, and use that data as input to run the Data App in HEDGE-IoT. The final outputs must be securely published back to ODEON as a result asset or dataset.<br>Expected results:<br>• Registered Data App in HEDGE-IoT.<br>• Successful ODEON data request and access/contract flow.<br>• Execution of the Data App in HEDGE-IoT using ODEON data.<br>• Results published back to ODEON.<br>• Short interoperability report with evidence, logs, and lessons learned. |
| **Datasets available** | Participants may use:<br>• Their own energy data.<br>• Simulated or streaming energy data.<br>• ODEON data assets, subject to ODEON access rules and contract conditions. |
| **Tools & infrastructure offered** | HEDGE-IoT will provide the main environment for:<br>• Data App development and registration.<br>• App Store/Open Services Catalogue onboarding.<br>• Dataspace-based data exchange.<br>• Semantic alignment support.<br>• Data App execution in the HEDGE-IoT ecosystem.<br><br>ODEON will provide access, where available, to:<br>• ODEON account creation.<br>• ODEON catalogue / marketplace.<br>• Data asset discovery.<br>• Access request and contract mechanisms.<br>• Publication of the results back to ODEON. |

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

## 1.6 CHALLENGES TO BE ADDRESSED BY APPLICANTS

Applicants should develop data-driven services running at the edge and/or cloud, exploiting the computational orchestration tools of the project and leveraging IoT assets. Proposals should address one or more of the key challenges below:

- Optimizing energy demand and response
- Enhancing grid flexibility and real-time predictive management.
- Securing IoT-driven energy data and transactions

## 1.7 TECHNICAL PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

The Technical Proposal is structured into five sections, as defined in the Proposal Template, available on https://hedgeiot.eu/open-call-2/. Only Sections 1, 2 and 3 (*Technical Quality*, *Impact*, and *Quality of Work Plan*) are subject to evaluation and scoring.

Sections 4 and 5 are still mandatory and must be completed by all applicants; however, they do not contribute to the evaluation score. These sections are used for eligibility verification, ethical compliance, intellectual property assessment and contractual preparation.

The Technical Proposal file, including the cover pages, all administrative information, an abstract, and the 5 Sections mentioned above (technical proposal description, impact, detailed work plan, intellectual property and ethical issues and a company description) written in the provided template, **should not exceed the maximum of 10 pages in total**.

Failure to complete any mandatory section of the Proposal Template may result in the application being declared ineligible. All proposals should be written, using the Proposal Template. Proposals outside this template will be declared as ineligible.

Below you will find detailed information for the different Sections of the Proposal and their subsections. Details are included on what is expected in each section.

### SECTION 1: TECHNICAL QUALITY

The proposal must address **only one unique topic** out of those defined in Section 7.2.1 of this document and propose innovative services or technologies responding to that topic.

Applicants must describe the technical approach and justify feasibility.

- **Alignment and Vision**

Applicants should describe the overall vision of the proposal, highlighting the key concepts underpinning the proposed solution and explaining how it aligns with the supported activity categories of the Open Call.

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

- **Objectives**

Applicants should define specific, clear, measurable and realistic objectives, achievable within the project duration. Objectives must be consistent with the overall objectives of the Open Call and coherent with the proposed activities.

- **Concept and Approach**

Applicants should elaborate the overall concept underpinning the proposal and describe the main ideas, models, assumptions and technical choices involved.

- **Ambition**

Applicants should explain how the proposed work goes beyond the state of the art, considering the current and envisioned status of the project ecosystem. The proposal should clearly describe its innovation potential and the level of ambition of the proposed work.

## SECTION 2: IMPACT

Applicants must clearly describe the expected impact and results of the proposed work and demonstrate how these outcomes contribute to scientific, technological and economic objectives.

- **Expected Impact and Results**

Applicants should describe the **short- and long-term impact** of the proposed results (e.g. effects on the relevant community, market structure, or economic prospects). The impact should be **realistic, transparent and measurable**.

Applicants must individually describe:

- Scientific impact
- Technological impact
- Economic impact

Clear **impact indicators** should be provided (e.g. new products or services, revenue generation, competitive advantage, job creation).

- **Exploitation Plan of Project Results**

Applicants should describe the **exploitation strategy** for the project results, including potential routes such as product development, commercialization, technology transfer or other forms of exploitation.

The proposal should clearly identify the **target market**, the **needs addressed**, and any expected **know-how or technology transfer** activities.

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

## SECTION 3: QUALITY OF WORK PLAN

Applicants must demonstrate that they have the **necessary skills, expertise and management capacity** to deliver the proposed work within the planned timeframe and budget.

The work plan and budget must be **credible, realistic, internally consistent and cost-effective**. Management structure and costs should be kept to a minimum, in line with the scope and scale of the supported actions.

- **Work Plan and Methodology**

Applicants should describe the **scientific and/or technological methodology** to be followed to achieve the proposal objectives. The work plan must be structured in phases, each leading to **concrete and measurable results**.

Applicants are required to structure the work plan using the tables provided in the Proposal Template and include:

1. Task list
2. Description of individual tasks
3. List of deliverables
4. List of milestones
5. Duration of tasks and their components
6. Identification of significant risks and contingency plans
7. Estimated Costs

Tasks must be described in sufficient detail to reflect the **complexity and added value** of the proposed work. Milestones should allow effective monitoring of progress.

- **Deliverables**

Applicants must describe the deliverables to be submitted during the implementation period. Deliverables support monitoring and enable corrective actions where necessary.

At a minimum, the following deliverables are required:

- **Mid-term Report:** Due at the **end of M3 of the implementation period**, this report will cover technical and business progress and will be reviewed internally.
  ➤ **Associated with a mid-term review and a 45% payment**, subject to successful approval.
- **Final Report:** Submitted at the **end of M6 of the implementation period**, this report will include technical results, validations, and potential market applications.
  ➤ **Associated with the final review and release of the remaining 30% payment**, upon approval.

Each report is tied to a review process, and corresponding payments are made **only upon successful approval** of each review stage.

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

- **Milestones**

Milestones represent **key control points** in the project lifecycle, where decisions are required regarding the next phase of development. A milestone should correspond to the achievement of a major result necessary for further progress.

- **Technological Risks**

Applicants must identify and describe key risks related to the proposed work (technical, commercial or other) and explain how these risks will be mitigated or managed effectively.

- **Service Resources and Costs**

Applicants must provide a **detailed and fully justified budget**, describing the resources required for implementation, including personnel effort and costs, travel, dissemination and exploitation activities, and other major cost items.

Budget information must be **fully aligned with the Estimated Eligible Costs table** and justified in accordance with the instructions provided in the Proposal Template.

## SECTION 4: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND ETHICAL ISSUES

Applicants must describe their approach to **intellectual property (IP) management and protection**, such as patenting or other mechanisms to safeguard technology rights.

Where applicable, applicants must also explain how **ethical issues** related to the proposed service will be addressed, including any relevant **certification processes**.

Applicants must confirm that **there is no active engagement or contractual relationship with the project consortium partners or the pilot provider** related to the topic addressed.

## SECTION 5: COMPANY DESCRIPTION

Applicants must provide a **brief description of the legal entity**, including:

- Organizational profile and core activities
- Main tasks attributed to the entity within the proposed project
- Relevant previous experience related to those tasks

A **short profile of the key individuals** involved in the implementation of the proposed work must also be included

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

## 1.8 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must comply with the following criteria:

- Legal entities should be registered in EU Member States or Horizon Europe associated countries.
- Applicants shall hold a valid VAT number issued in their country of establishment and must be registered in the European Commission's Participant Register, possessing a valid Participant Identification Code (PIC) at the time of proposal submission (https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register). Applications submitted without a valid VAT number and/or PIC will be considered ineligible.
- Applicants must be profit making Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) or Startups. An SME declaration, based on the template shared on https://hedgeiot.eu/open-call-2/ is required to be submitted in all applications.
- Proposals and any other supporting documents should be submitted entirely in English.
- Proposal files should not exceed the maximum of 10 pages, including the cover pages, all administrative information, an abstract, and the five mandatory sections (technical proposal description, impact, detailed work plan, intellectual property and ethical issues and a company description), written in the provided template on https://hedgeiot.eu/open-call-2/.
- Proposals exceeding 10MB or page limits will be rejected.
- The proposal and all attachments can be only in PDF format.
- Proposals should only be written using the Proposal Template, featured on https://hedgeiot.eu/open-call-2/. In any different case, submitted proposals will be declared ineligible and will not be evaluated. Any other documents submitted in the place of the proposal template, or considered by the applicant as constituting the proposal, shall not be regarded as a valid proposal. Applications not including a valid proposal document as defined above will be declared ineligible and excluded from evaluation. The responsibility for submitting the correct documents lies solely with the applicant.
- Applicants must select and address only one of the above-mentioned Open Call 2 topics in their proposal. Multi-topic proposals are not permitted. Proposals that address, reference, or attempt to cover more than one topic will be considered ineligible and excluded prior to evaluation.
- Only one proposal per applicant is permitted.
- Only single legal entities are eligible to apply under Open Call 2. Applications submitted by consortia, joint applications, or groups of legal entities will be declared ineligible and will not be evaluated.
- The submission should be executed exclusively through the HEDGE-IoT Open Calls Portal: https://www.f6s.com/hedge-iot-open-call-2-application/
- During the submission process, questions submitted via email will not be answered. All questions must be posted in the Open Calls Portal Discussion section (https://www.f6s.com/hedge-iot-open-call-2-application/discuss), where all questions

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

and answers will be publicly visible to all applicants, ensuring equal access to information and transparency. Questions posted during the final two weeks of the submission period will not be taken into consideration or answered; the final date for submitting questions is August 7th, 2026.

- Applications submitted through the Open Calls Portal are final. No reopening, editing, or resubmission will be possible by any means or at any stage of the submission process; applicants should ensure their application is complete and final before submission.
- Absence of conflict of interest with HEDGE-IoT consortium partners is a pre-requisite.

All cases of conflict of interest will be assessed case by case. Conflict of interest may occur when there are conditions, involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest, that might affect the objective evaluation of the proposal, as defined in the Horizon Europe Programme and EC regulations.

Consortium partners, their affiliated entities, employees and permanent collaborators have not the right to participate.

## 1.9 FINANCIAL SUPPORT

To support innovation uptake, HEDGE-IoT will allocate up to **€1,700,000 in cascading funding** to up to **30 third-party experiments**, primarily targeting SMEs. This funding will be distributed **as follows across the two Open Calls**: i) In the first Open Call, **12 projects** were funded corresponding to an amount of **649.867,00 €,** ii) In the second Open Call, **up to 18 projects** will be funded, based on the available budget of the open call campaign and the total funding requested by the successful applicants, corresponding to an amount of up to **€1,050,133.00.** The selection process is described in the SUBMISSION PROCESS section of this document. Selected applicants can receive **up to €60,000**, covering their eligible costs. This amount refers to the **maximum requested funding** and should not be understood as the total budget of the proposed project.

Applicants must calculate their budget using the applicable cost categories and funding rules.

Total Direct Costs = Personnel Costs + Travel Costs + Equipment Costs + Other Direct Costs

Indirect costs are calculated as **25% of the eligible direct costs**, excluding subcontracting costs, in accordance with the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement. This means that indirect costs are applied only to Personnel Costs, Travel Costs, Equipment Costs and Other Direct Costs

The total budget is calculated as:

**Total Budget = Total Direct Costs + Indirect Costs + Subcontracting**

For for-profit entities, the requested funding is calculated by applying the **70% funding rate** to the total eligible budget. The final requested funding amount must respect the maximum funding limit defined in the call conditions.

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

**Eligible costs include:**

- Personnel
- Travel and subsistence
- Equipment
- Subcontracting (up to 20%) but should be fully justified for the action

Equipment Costs follow depreciation rules. Equipment costs are eligible only for the portion corresponding to the project's duration and actual use for the action, calculated according to the beneficiary's usual accounting practices and the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement.

**Example:**

An applicant proposes the following estimated eligible costs:

TABLE 1: BUDGET CALCULATION EXAMPLE

| BUDGET CATEGORY | AMOUNT (€) |
|---|---|
| PERSONNEL COSTS | 45,000 |
| TRAVEL COSTS | 2,000 |
| EQUIPMENT COSTS | 3,000 |
| OTHER DIRECT COSTS | 5,000 |
| TOTAL DIRECT COSTS | 55,000 (*PERSONNEL COSTS + TRAVEL COSTS + EQUIPMENT + OTHER DIRECT COSTS*) |
| INDIRECT COSTS | 13,750 (TOTAL DIRECT COSTS X 25%) |
| TOTAL SUBCONTRACTING COSTS | 6,000 |
| TOTAL COSTS | **74,750 (TOTAL DIRECT COSTS + INDIRECT COSTS + SUBCONTRACTING COSTS)** |
| REQUESTED FUNDING | **52,325 (TOTAL COSTS X 70%)** |

In this example, the applicant's **total direct costs** amount to **€55,000**, calculated as personnel costs, travel costs, equipment and other direct costs. The **indirect costs** are calculated as **25% of the total direct costs**, resulting in **€13,750**. The applicant's **total eligible project budget** is therefore **€74,750**, calculated as total direct costs, indirect costs and subcontracting costs.

Since a funding rate of **70%** applies for for-profit legal entities, the requested funding is **€52,325**. The remaining **€22,425** must be covered by the applicant as own contribution.

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

**Please note that the requested funding for each applicant should not exceed €60,000.** This amount represents the maximum contribution provided through the HEDGE-IoT Open Call and does not necessarily correspond to the total eligible costs of the proposed project, which may be higher depending on the applicable funding rate and the legal status of the applicant.

Funds will be disbursed based upon the successful delivery and approval by the HEDGE-IOT project, of the submitted technical and business reports and demonstrators, along the 6-month implementation program, scheduled to launch with the contract signature of the winning consortia.

**Payment structure:**

- **25% pre-financing** at project start
- **45%** after successful mid-term review
- **30%** upon approval of final deliverables

A standard contract will define funding terms, IPR, reporting, and compliance with EU audit and control procedures.

To ensure financial transparency and sound use of funds, each proposal must include a detailed, coherent and fully justified budget, in strict accordance with the cost tables and instructions provided in the Proposal Template. Applicants must provide a clear and detailed narrative justification for all cost categories, including personnel effort (person-months), personnel costs, travel, dissemination activities and related costs, equipment and other direct costs, subcontracting and indirect costs.

The budget justification shall clearly demonstrate the necessity, eligibility, proportionality and cost-effectiveness of each cost item, and its direct link to the proposed work plan, objectives, timeline and expected results. Generic descriptions, lump-sum figures, or insufficiently explained cost items are not acceptable.

Full internal consistency is required between the Estimated Eligible Costs table and the accompanying budget justification. Any discrepancies, inconsistencies or mismatches in amounts, regardless of cause (e.g. typographical errors), may be flagged during evaluation and lead to a penalty in the proposal score under Evaluation Criterion 3 – Quality of Work Plan.

Subcontracting costs must remain exceptional, clearly justified, and limited to tasks that cannot be performed by the applicant, in line with the conditions set out in the Proposal Template. Equipment and other direct costs must be restricted to the eligible share attributable to the project duration, in accordance with applicable depreciation rules.

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

## 1.10 APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION PROCESS

Proposals must be submitted via the HEDGE-IoT Open Calls Portal (https://www.f6s.com/hedge-iot-open-call-2-application)

Submission details include:

- Administrative and legal information.
- A Proposal including all administrative information, an abstract, technical proposal description, impact, detailed work plan, intellectual property and ethical issues and a company description, written in the provided template on https://hedgeiot.eu/open-call-2/ (max 10 pages in total, including the cover pages).
- A Declaration of Honor (included on https://hedgeiot.eu/open-call-2/)
- An SME Declaration (included on https://hedgeiot.eu/open-call-2/)

Applicants are strongly advised against last-minute submissions.

## 1.11 ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The official language for HEDGE-IoT Open Calls shall be the English language. Proposals must be written in English to a full extent. Any uploaded supporting documents must also be in English and will not be taken into consideration if submitted in any other language.

If any part of the proposal is written in any language other than English, the entire proposal will be rejected. English is the only official language during the whole procedure of the HEDGE-IoT Open Calls. Any requested deliverables and/or reports shall be submitted only in English, otherwise not accepted.

## 1.12 MULTIPLE SUBMISSIONS

To ensure diversity and allow new actors to contribute, the following restriction will apply:

- Each proposal must target only one unique topic.
- If a participant submitted a proposal under any topic in Open Call 1 and was selected for funding, they cannot submit another proposal in Open Call 2.

Under Open Call 2, each applicant may submit only one proposal. **Submission of more than one proposal by the same applicant will result in all submitted applications being declared ineligible and excluded from evaluation.**

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

## 1.13 SUBMISSION SYSTEM

Only proposals submitted through the HEDGE-IoT Open Calls Portal (https://www.f6s.com/hedge-iot-open-call-2-application/) within the given deadline will be accepted. Proposals submitted by any other means, will not be evaluated.

The proposal and all supporting attachments can be only in PDF format.

It is the Applicant's responsibility to have all necessary information included in the Proposal Template. All data provided should be actual, true and complete and therefore allow the assessment of the proposal.

## 1.14 EVALUATION PROCESS

All proposals submitted to the HEDGE-IoT Open Calls will follow a transparent and structured evaluation process, in line with European Commission standards. This ensures fairness, impartiality, and equal treating of all applicants.

## 1.15 EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **Expected Impact:** Contribution to IoT-grid interoperability, scalability, market potential, and alignment with the selected topic.
- **Technical Quality:** Soundness of concept, level of innovation, feasibility, and compliance with the HEDGE-IoT architecture.
- **Quality of Work Plan:** Coherence of the plan, clarity of milestones, resource allocation, and risk management.

Each criterion is scored from **0 to 5**:

- 0: Not addressed
- 1: Poor – serious weaknesses
- 2: Fair – significant weaknesses
- 3: Good – addresses the criterion with some improvements needed
- 4: Very Good – strong with minor issues
- 5: Excellent – fully addresses all aspects

Proposals must receive a **minimum of 3 points per criterion** and a **total score of at least 10 out of 15** to be eligible for funding.

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

## 1.16 EVALUATION STEPS

1. **Eligibility Check:** The Open Call Support Team verifies eligibility and admissibility.
2. **Individual Evaluation Reports (IERs):** Two evaluators independently review and score each proposal.
3. **Consensus Phase:** Evaluators discuss and align on final scores and comments, resulting in a **Consensus Report (CR)**.
4. **Panel Review:** A panel reviews the ranked proposals, resolves ties (with priority given to Overall Score, then Impact, then Technical Quality, and then Gender Equality), and validates the final list.
5. **Evaluation Summary Report (ESR):** Applicants receive an ESR with results and comments within **70 business days** of the submission deadline.

## 1.17 SPECIFIC RULES FOR OPEN CALL 2

- In Open Call 2, a **maximum of 18 proposals** will be selected to proceed, based on the available budget of the open call campaign and the total funding requested by the successful applicants
- Only proposals that score a **minimum of 3 points per criterion** and a **total score of at least 10 out of 15** will be considered.
- Priority will be given to the **highest-ranked proposal under each topic**, to ensure a **diverse and representative selection** across all defined topics.
- If multiple proposals fall under the same topic, only the **top-ranked** one may be selected.

This approach is designed to ensure broad thematic coverage in Open Call 2 and to promote balanced representation of all topics.

## 1.18 REDRESS PROCEDURE

Applicants may submit a redress request within **5 business days** of receiving their evaluation results if they believe a procedural error has occurred. Requests must be sent to **info@inclusinn.com** and will be reviewed internally. The redress is valid only for administrative reasons. No redress for the evaluation score is going to be taken into account.

## 1.19 CONTRACTUAL PROCEDURES

Selected applicants must provide the following extra documents:

- Proof of legal existence (registration documents).
- Articles of association.
- Legal representation certification.

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

- Register of commerce.
- Judicial record extracts.
- No bankruptcy certification.
- Proof of VAT.
- Proof of PIC.
- Certification of no debt.
- Double Taxation Avoidance Form (if applied).
- Certification of no outstanding social security or tax debts.
- Bank details (recent bank statement).
- European Commission's official Financial Identification Form, signed.

Applicants should note that selection following the evaluation process is provisional and does not automatically constitute a final grant award. The final award of financial support is subject to the successful completion of all required legal, administrative and financial checks, the submission and validation of all requested supporting documents, and the signature of the Sub-Grant Agreement between the selected applicant and the HEDGE-IoT project.

If a selected applicant fails to provide the required documentation, does not meet the eligibility, legal, financial or administrative requirements, or does not sign the Sub-Grant Agreement within the requested timeframe, HEDGE-IoT reserves the right to withdraw the provisional selection and proceed with the next eligible proposal in the ranking list, subject to the available budget and applicable Open Call 2 rules.

## 1.20 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Execution deadlines for Open Call 2: December 2026 - May 2027. Extension of up to two weeks can be possible for quality assurance.

## 1.21 OBLIGATIONS OF BENEFICIARIES

Third Parties selected for funding must ensure that they comply with certain obligations originally detailed under the Grant Agreement between the HEDGE-IoT Project and the European Commission. These obligations are stated in the Contract Agreements signed between HEDGE-IoT representatives and the selected Third Parties.

When signing the Model Contract with HEDGE-IoT and therefore accepting to receive funding grants owned by the European Commission, Third Parties apply a relation between themselves and the European Commission through the HEDGE-IoT Project that carries a set of obligations to the Third Parties with the European Commission.

- Avoidance of conflicts of interest
- Confidentiality
- Dissemination of the action and visibility to the EU funding
- Liability for damages

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Selected beneficiaries must accept the right of control of the European Commission, OLAF and the Court of Auditors and the right for the European Commission to make an evaluation of the impact of the action. In order to be able to fulfil these obligations, the contractual arrangements on the Third Parties will be included in the Contract Agreements (including control measures and/or reducing the financial support).

## 1.22 COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

General communication will be through email notifications at critical evaluation milestones.

Support and inquiries:

**Helpdesk:** info@inclusinn.com

Include contact details, specific query descriptions, and screenshots of encountered issues.

## 1.23 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Applicants must respect ethical guidelines according to European Commission standards and GDPR regulations. Data provided is solely for the purpose of evaluation, contracting, and monitoring under HEDGE-IoT.

## 1.24 PRIVACY POLICY

### SELECTED PLATFORM

The F6S platform has been selected as the primary tool for managing the HEDGE IoT Open call due to its proven capabilities in handling large-scale application processes. F6S platform offers a comprehensive range of features that streamline the application process, including registration, submission, and communication with applicants, all in a user-friendly interface.

A key reason for selecting F6S is its ability to handle high application volumes efficiently, complete with tools for tracking, reviewing, and reporting. Moreover, its customizability allows the consortium to tailor the application process to individual project needs, from defining who can apply to establishing how submissions will be evaluated. The platform's intuitive design and straightforward instructions ensure a seamless experience for applicants, minimizing any difficulties in submitting their applications.

Through F6S platform proposals can be electronically submitted, reviewed, monitored and processed during the various stages of evaluation. The applicants will be required to register a profile at F6S to submit a proposal.

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

## DATA PROTECTION

The F6S platform's system design and operational procedures ensure that data is managed in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR). Each applicant will accept the F6S terms to ensure compliance. Please refer here to review the F6S platform's privacy policy and data security policy.

Please note that the HEDGE IoT consortium must retain generated data until five years after the balance of the HEDGE IoT project is paid or longer if there are ongoing procedures (such as audits, investigations or litigation). In this case, the data must be kept until the end.

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement number 101136216. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

# HEDGE-IoT