

## **The French programme “Investments for the Future”**

### **(Programme d’investissements d’avenir PIA)**

#### **and the Joint actions of the SET-Plan**

In order to achieve the identified targets of the implementation plans endorsed by the SET-Plan Steering group, France has made possible the development of joint research projects together with other European SET-Plan countries through its funding programme “Investments for the Future” (PIA).

#### **What is the programme “Investments for the Future”?**

The PIA (Programme d’Investissements d’Avenir – Programme Investments for the Future) was launched in 2009,. It aims at preparing France for the upcoming challenges (competitiveness, environment, energy, health, etc.) and increasing its growth potential by investing in higher education and training, research, industry and SMEs, sustainable development and digitization. The PIA is intended to support projects fostering innovation and the creation of jobs in sectors with strong potential for the French economy. It is a matter of strengthening France's strategic competitive advantages.

The implementation of the programme is steered by the General Secretariat for Investment (SGPI). It is operated by several public bodies, among which the French Environment & Energy Management Agency (ADEME), a major actor active in the implementation of public policy in the areas of the environment, energy and sustainable development. In this framework the agency helps finance projects, from research to implementation, in its areas of action. Between 2010 and 2017 more than 2,5 billion Euros were allocated through ADEME to 750 R&D projects, covering a wide scope of topics among which energy, storage, energy efficiency, circular economy, transportation and mobility.

In 2018, the third round of the PIA was launched with an endowment of 1 Bn€ for innovation in the field of the energy and ecological transition.

#### **Investment mechanisms**

The financial support provided by the ADEME is allocated in the frame of calls for projects, the selected projects obtaining a mix of two types of State aids subject to European competition regulations. Namely:

- The so-called "repayable advances" consisting in state aids with systematic profit-sharing;
- Grants, which are primarily reserved for research bodies.

Several calls launched in the frame of the PIA and dealing with innovation in the field of the energy and ecological transition are focusing on collaborative projects aiming at demonstrating the viability of innovation at pre-deployment stage (TRL 5-8). These CfPs are opened to companies, academics and public bodies as well as European SET-Plan countries stakeholders and beyond to international cooperation, as long as the demonstrators or projects will be located in France.

Additionally, foreign partners may participate to projects funded in the frame of the PIA as long as they do not request for a French financial support.

## **Calls for projects currently open**

The French government launched on July 31<sup>st</sup> 2019, 3 calls for projects which are part of the action "Demonstrators" of the third Investment Program for the Future (PIA3), endowed with 300 million euros. They cover a wide thematic area in the field of ecological and solidarity transition: energy systems, bioeconomy, environmental protection, circular economy, eco-efficiency in industry, agriculture and water, or the development of cities and territories.

All projects supported will have to:

1. provide environmental added value, be innovative, in terms of the state of the art and competition;
2. meet the demand of a target market, be replicable on mass markets or target a niche market with significant environmental added value and finally be located primarily on the national territory.

### **• Call for projects "Energy Systems - Sustainable Cities and Territories"**

Deadline for submission: January 20<sup>th</sup> 2020

Carbon neutrality involves decarbonizing energy systems from production to uses, optimizing distribution. The expected projects must primarily relate to: optimized energy systems, production / supply of renewable energies and renewable energy vectors and environmental optimization at the scale of a building / island (under construction or renovation) or territory.

<https://appelsaprojets.ademe.fr/aap/SEVTD2019-95#resultats>

### **• Call for projects "Bioeconomy and protection of the environment"**

Deadline for submission: January 20<sup>th</sup> 2020

The expected projects will relate to innovative solutions and services contributing to the protection of the environment, the restoration of ecosystems and new modes of production, recovery and consumption of resources. Bioeconomy encompasses all activities related to sustainable production systems, mobilization and transformation of biomass, be it forestry, agriculture, aquaculture, agri-food or fisheries for valuations in food chains, biobased products and energy.

<https://appelsaprojets.ademe.fr/aap/BIOENV2019-97#resultats>

### **• Call for projects "Circular Economy - Eco-efficiency in Industry, Agriculture and Water"**

Deadline for submission: January 20<sup>th</sup> 2020

Expected projects will contribute to the evolution towards a circular economy according to the following priorities: ecodesign of products and services; more efficient production of material and energy resources, especially in industry and agriculture; the prevention of the production of waste, the optimization of their collection, the treatment of the ultimate waste. The water resource is also covered by this call for projects for the development of innovative solutions related to collection, processing and distribution, better management of the resource, and new business and management models.

<https://appelsaprojets.ademe.fr/aap/ECEI2019-96#resultats>