Simplification of Innovation Fund processes

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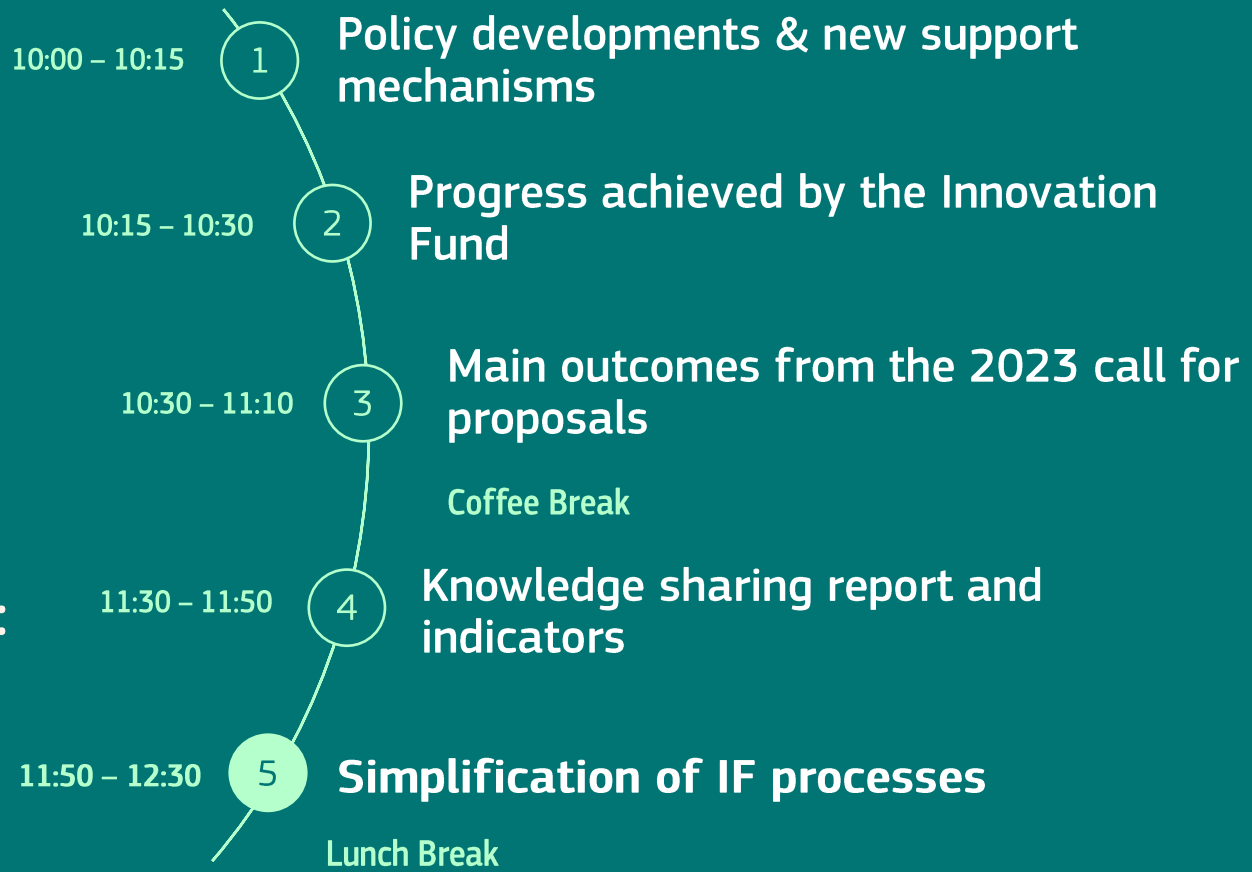
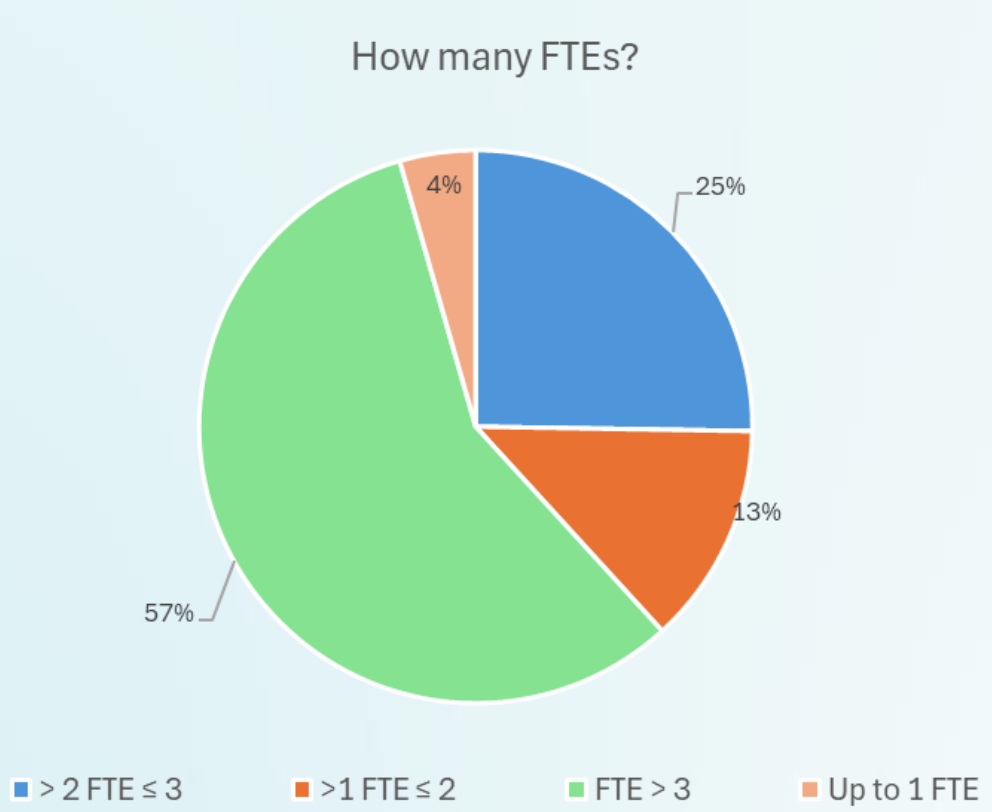
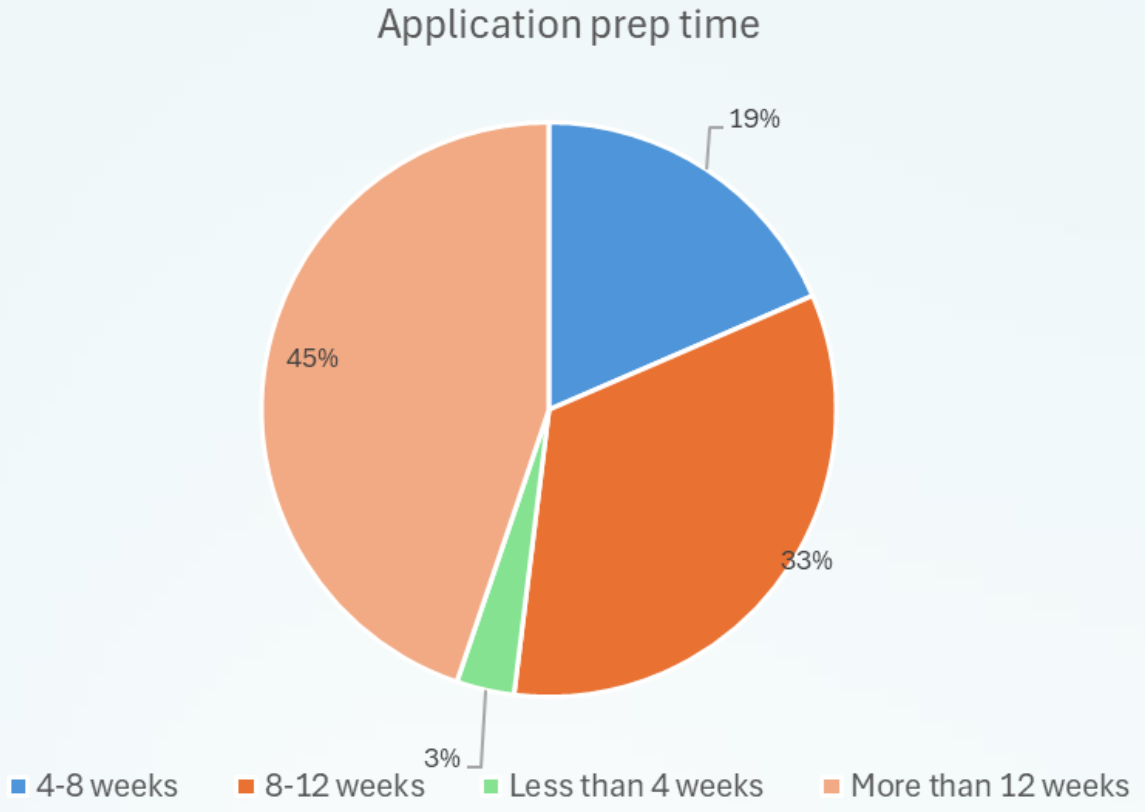


European Commission

Partial results of survey on the application process – application effort





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Partial results of survey on the application process

Which would be a major simplification of the application process in your opinion?

- Reduce **complexity of the calculations**, since it requires expertise in various areas. Particularly the GHG, relevant costs, and the financial information file (FIF)
- Remove **unnecessary requirements**, such as the Knowledge plan at the application stage.
- Remove **duplication** of requirements across some of the templates and Part B, and provide more **templates**
- **Categories and sectors** are not sufficient, confusing or overlapping creating confusion on the classification
- **Staged application**, starting for example with Degree of Innovation. If project fails first criterion, it does not have to submit the rest of the application
- Requirements for **small-scale** should be less complex. Particularly, the FIF.
- Better **tracking of helpdesk** submissions, including confirmation of receipt, and a process ID for tracking
- More **hands-on support for applicants** for the preparation of proposals. Including opportunity to discuss specific questions about the application with a 2nd level support or project officer

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Application process measures:

- **Relevant Cost methodology simplification** to the default “no reference plant”
- **Simplification templates** for application documents: Business plan, Letters of Support; Feasibility study; Knowledge sharing plan
- **Streamline the application** Form B and reduce duplications between application documents
- Knowledge sharing plan no longer requested at application stage, but only for awarded projects

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1. Do you consider the Relevant Cost methodology can be further streamlined?
2. Do you consider the proposed simplifications to the process will reduce the application burden and costs significantly?

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Award criteria options

- Develop the **Replicability** criteria by providing scores per sub-criteria and improving the criteria description and clarity.
- Keep the **absolute GHG emissions avoidance** (in t CO_2e) sub-criteria with maximum 2 points to ensure a scoring distribution within a category
- The [X] % threshold on the **relative GHG emissions avoidance** criterion is to be reconsidered

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1. Do you agree with the proposed change to the criteria?
2. How should the relative GHG threshold be established?
3. Do you consider the proposed simplifications to the award criteria will reduce the costs significantly?

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GHG methodology options

Adoption of a non-zero **emission factor for electricity** inputs	A combined **mobility section** for aviation, maritime and road transport	Including **upstream emissions for manufacturing of components**
Instructions for the calculation of credit related to **CCS/CCU**	Exclusion of **non-specific GHG requirements** to avoid overlap with the financial evaluation (e.g., contracts, letters of interest)	New approach and dedicated sector for **battery manufacturing** projects, aligned to relevant regulations
Alignment of boundaries (emissions sources and gases) across categories, whilst having in mind materiality for each sector	Clarified instructions on the adoption of **assumptions and data sources**	General tidying up of tools and methodology, removal of redundant fields, restructuring the document, alignment of terminology for clarity

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1. Do you consider it useful to have a non-zero the emission factor for electricity inputs?
2. Should upstream emissions be included within the boundaries of calculation?

Slido Open questions

Application process

What long-term changes do you think are necessary to make the application process more user-friendly and efficient?

Award criteria

What aspects of the award criteria do you find most challenging to meet, and how could they be improved without compromising the quality/robustness of the evaluation?

GHG methodology

Do you consider the proposed simplifications to the GHG methodology will make it easier for applicants to use it?