**Xjenza Malta**

**Expression of Interest**

**Xjenza Malta is seeking suitable experts to participate in the scientific evaluation within the new Horizon Europe transnational initiative: the Clean Energy Transition Partnership (CETPartnership).**

Candidates must have expertise in at least two of the following Transition Initiatives (TRIs):

* TRI1: Optimized integrated European net-zero emissions energy system
* TRI2: Enhanced zero emission power technologies
* TRI3: Enabling climate neutrality with storage technologies, hydrogen and renewable fuels, and CCU/CCS
* TRI4: Efficient zero emission Heating and Cooling Solutions
* TRI5: Integrated regional energy systems
* TRI6: Integrated industrial energy systems
* TRI7: Integration in the built environment

**DEADLINE:** **Monday 9th September 2024, 17:00 CET**

## **1.0 General**

This call is to seek suitable experts to participate as evaluators in the scientific evaluation process of the CETPartnership transnational research project proposals.

Xjenza Malta is one of the 50 national and regional RTDI programme owners and managers from 30 countries that are part of this transnational initiative. Each partner involved in the CETPartnership Joint Call 2024 has been asked to nominate evaluators. **Anyone can be nominated, regardless of nationality and/or country of residence.** The CETPartnership’s Call Management Team will then select the evaluators from the list of suggested evaluators submitted by the Funding Partners.

The chosen evaluators will then be assigned to scientifically evaluate a number of project proposals, in accordance with their area of expertise. **The selection of evaluators from the pool of experts is at CETPartnership’s sole discretion.** Each project proposal will be scientifically evaluated by three (3) independent evaluators according to the relevance of their expertise to the proposal.

This call is open to experts who will not participate in any of the CETPartnership’s pre and full project proposals and having expertise in at least two of the TRIs, which are organized in Call modules, as specified in Annex II.

## **2.0 About the CETPartnership**

The Clean Energy Transition Partnership (CETPartnership) is a strategic Horizon Europe initiative aimed at driving the energy transition and contributing to the EU’s goal of becoming the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. It brings together funding from 50 programme owners across 30 countries, including Malta, to support a broad range of technologies and systems necessary for this transition.

The CETPartnership addresses various challenges, from discrete technologies to integrated systems, focusing on energy conversion, storage, carbon treatment, and sinks. Additional challenges include storage technologies, flexible demand technologies, and advancements in electrification and cleaner industry. These enabling technologies need further exploration and improvement, including the optimization of their production processes.

As a pioneering multilateral initiative under Horizon Europe, the CETPartnership is committed to enhancing these technologies to ensure a sustainable clean energy future for Europe and beyond. We invite passionate and forward-thinking individuals to join us on this transformative journey towards a greener, climate-resilient world. Together, we will shape Europe’s energy landscape and lead the way in clean energy innovation and implementation.

## **3.0 Service Requirements**

The CETPartnership Joint Call 2024 is being implemented as a two-step procedure (a pre-proposal stage and a full-proposal stage). Thus, the requirement would revolve around the timeline for both stages.

An Evaluation Handbook containing instructions and guidance is currently being drafted and will be distributed to the evaluators prior to the start of the evaluation process.

### **3.1 Evaluation Procedure**

The CETPartnership Joint Call 2024 is divided into eleven (11) Call Modules, and each Call Module will follow an evaluation procedure. For both the Pre-Proposal and Full Proposal stages, each proposal will be assessed by at least three (3) independent experts. These experts will individually evaluate the proposals based on the evaluation criteria specific to the Joint Call 2024, as set by the CETPartnership secretariat, using the CETPartnership Application and Evaluation portal.

At the Pre-Proposal stage, proposals will receive an average score from the three expert evaluations, resulting in one ranking list of pre-proposals per Call Module. Proposals that advance to the Full Proposal stage will undergo a similar evaluation procedure, again based solely on the established criteria. The evaluation meetings for the Full Proposal stage will be overseen by an independent observer to ensure fairness and transparency.

## **4.0 Remuneration**

Financial remuneration will be provided to the evaluators by the CETPartnership Call Management Team and **NOT** by Xjenza Malta. More details will be provided in due course.

## **5.0 Evaluator Requirements**

Experts must, at minimum, hold a first degree and a post graduate qualification in a specific area of expertise, which is in line with the TRIs chosen (Annex II). They must show proof of at least five years of professional experience (or at least 2 years if in possession of a Ph.D.) in the area of expertise.

## **6.0 Conflicts of Interest (COI)**

It is imperative that the nominated experts are by no means affiliated with any active project proposal and/or the CETPartnership or TRIs in any way. All evaluators are required to declare their independence to the projects and the CETPartnership to avoid any conflict of interest. They must certify to adhere to the confidentiality conditions of the evaluation process and a form must be signed and submitted prior to the start of the individual evaluation.

A COI exists if a candidate:

* is involved in the preparation of any of the CETPartnership project pre-proposals or proposals
* stands to benefit directly / indirectly if the proposal is positively evaluated
* has a family / personal relationship with any person that is part of a consortium that has submitted a research project pre-proposal

In the case that during the evaluation process the expert encounters a real or perceived COI situation, the expert is expected to inform the CETPartnerhip Call Management Team immediately and await further instructions before proceeding with any further work.

## **7.0 Instructions and Application**

Interested candidates are to submit the following documentation:

* Filled in Annex 1: Submission Form
* A detailed Curriculum Vitae

The requested documentation shall be sent electronically to eusubmissions.xjenzamalta@gov.mt, with “CETPartnership Call for Experts 2024” as a subject heading. Applications should be received by not later than **Monday 9th September 2024, 17:00 CET**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. It is the responsibility of the experts to ensure that they are provided with a written confirmation of receipt of their application.

Following your application, an official invitation will be sent to you by the CETPartnership, providing you with further details and asking for your availability.

Interested parties may also contact the national contact point for the CETPartnership, Ms. Christy Baldacchino, on +356 2360 2158 or christy.baldacchino.2@gov.mt, for additional information.

**8.0 Data Protection Clause**

The information collected through this Call shall be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act, Chapter 586 of the Laws of Malta and Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation). The contents remain confidential and solely intended for the use of this Call’s purpose and will not be disclosed or copied without your consent. Submitted information will be retained for a period of ten (10) years from the date that the CETPartnership ends.

## **Annex 1: Submission Form**

*Kindly fill in the following form with the requested information, sign and submit together with a detailed CV.*

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| --- | --- |
| Full Name |  |
| Gender |  |
| Nationality |  |
| Email Address |  |
| Phone Number (incl. Country Code) |  |
| Position |  |
| Organisation Name |  |
| Country of Residence |  |
| Highest level of Education |  |
| Transnational & Interdisciplinary experience |  |
| Industrial Expertise |  |
| Field of Expertise (2-3 keywords) |  |
| TRI most relevant to your expertise (Primary)  | *Descriptions of each TRI are provided in Annex 2 below.*  |
| TRI most relevant to your expertise (Secondary) | *Descriptions of each TRI are provided in Annex 2 below.* |

[ ]  I consent that the above documents provided are shared with CETPartnership Call Management Team for the selection of evaluators for the CETPartnership Joint Call 2024.

[ ]  I consent that the CETP Call Management Team discloses information in the public domain in relation to the evaluators throughout the review process including name, surname and area of specialization.

[ ]  I confirm that a detailed CV has been attached to the form.

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| --- | --- |
| Signature |  |
| Date |  |

## **Annex II – Areas of Expertise**

*More information on the TRIs and their respective Call modules can be obtained from* [*https://cetpartnership.eu/about*](https://cetpartnership.eu/about)

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| **Transition Initiatives** |
| **TRI1: Optimized integrated European net-zero emissions energy system**Develop an optimised, integrated European net-zero emissions energy system, where electricity distribution and transmission grids are seen as the “backbone” of the future low-carbon energy systems with a high level of integration among all energy carrier networks, by e.g., coupling electricity networks with gas, heating and cooling networks, supported by energy storage and power conversion processes. |
| **TRI2: Enhanced zero emission power technologies**Develop a pool of zero-emission power technologies and solutions based on Renewable Energy Sources (RES) as the backbone of the future energy system, being able to deliver carbon-neutral electricity accessible to all and to contribute to the resilience of the system. |
| **TRI3: Enabling climate neutrality with storage technologies, hydrogen and renewable fuels, and CCU/CCS**Provide technological cleaner solutions for storage technologies, hydrogen and renewable fuels, CCS (Carbon Capture and Storage) and CCU (Carbon Capture and Utilisation). Funded projects need to have a significant bearing on accelerating the technologies and provide results showing significant CO2 reduction by 2030 and demonstrate a contribution to the climate neutrality by 2050. |
| **TRI4: Efficient zero emission Heating and Cooling Solutions**Provide enhanced and improved heating and cooling technologies and systems for all major parts of Europe by 2030 and to enable 100% climate-neutral heating and cooling by 2050. |
| **TRI5: Integrated regional energy systems**Develop and validate integrated regional and local energy systems, that make it possible to efficiently provide, host and utilize high shares of renewables, up to and beyond 100% in the dynamic local or regional supply by 2030. Such systems shall provide tailor-made solutions that meet the individual regional and local requirements and demand. |
| **TRI6: Integrated industrial energy systems**Develop and demonstrate a set of technical solutions for integrated industrial energy systems that enables efficient carbon-neutral industrial production sites and takes industrial energy systems into development as part of the entire energy system.  |
| **TRI7: Integration in the built environment**Provide solutions and technologies for existing and new buildings to become an active element in the energy system, with enhanced capability to produce, store and efficiently use energy in the residential and non-residential sector, comprising public and commercial buildings, service and mobility infrastructure buildings, etc. |

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| Call Modules |
| Call Module Number | **Title** |
| CM2024-01 | Data spaces and interoperability |
| CM2024-02 | Energy system flexibility: renewables production, storageand system integration |
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| CM2024-03A | Advanced renewable energy (RE) technologies forpower production (Research-Oriented Approach) |
| CM2024-03B | Advanced renewable energy (RE) technologies forpower production (Innovation-Oriented Approach) |
| CM2024-04 | Carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) |
| CM2024-05 | Hydrogen & renewable fuels |
| CM2024-06 | Heating and cooling technologies |
| CM2024-07 | Geothermal energy technologies |
| CM2024-08 | Integrated regional energy systems |
| CM2024-09 | Integrated industrial energy systems |
| CM2024-10 | Clean energy integration in the built environment |