

11-13 JUNE 2024

EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WEEK

Net-zero energy solutions
for a competitive Europe



European Sustainable Energy Week

Information session

Wednesday 15 November 2023

11:00-12:30 CET

This document lists the questions and corresponding answers asked during the European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) 2024 info session that took place on 15 November 2023 at 11:00 CET. In case of potential discrepancies with the answers provided during the info session, the answers indicated in the present document prevail.

This document provides clarifications on the application processes for the Policy Conference, Awards, Energy Fair, and Sustainable Energy Days. Please always consult the application guidelines published on the [EUSEW website](#), which provide further details.

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General information

For questions on European policies raised during the info session, please address them to EDCC or go to Europa pages. The Europe Direct Contact Centre (EDCC) is a service provided by the European Commission that answers questions from the public about the European Union via phone or email.

Can you attend EUSEW without hosting a policy session?

Yes, EUSEW offers many opportunities for you to engage, as it usually runs from October to June, culminating in the Policy Conference from 11 to 13 June 2024. If you cannot attend the [Policy Conference](#) in Brussels, you can also host a Sustainable Energy Day in your area. Find out more [here](#).

The conference will be held both onsite in Brussels at the European Commission's Charlemagne Building and the Martin's Hotel as well as online.

Registration for the Policy Conference will open in mid-April 2024, and registered participants can join the entire conference onsite and/or online. We encourage you to come onsite to Brussels to benefit from the extensive networking opportunities.

Will members of the press have the opportunity for a brief Q&A with EU officials immediately following their presentations/sessions, or should we attempt to schedule something in advance?

Please address any media requests to our functional mailbox: media@eusew.eu.

Policy Conference

How can I include my organisation in the list of organisations featured in the profile section of the application form? To [apply to host a policy session](#), your organisation should be one of the types mentioned below:

- European institutions and bodies or international organisations;
- consortia of EU-funded projects;
- national, regional/local authorities, agencies, or other public bodies (including their networks);
- business, industry, or professional associations;

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- non-governmental organisations (consumer associations, environmental organisations, etc.);
- citizens' groups (energy cooperatives, energy communities, youth groups);
- research and innovation organisations (research institutes, universities, scientific foundations, and technical colleges, think tanks, etc.);
- media and press corps.

Once you are in the application form, you just have to put the name of the organisation and select the type of organisation matching yours. If you think your organisation belongs to a group that is not included in the list, please send us an email at conference@eusew.eu.

What will be the main focus of next year's policy conference?

The main of focus of the EUSEW 2024 edition is on 'Net zero energy solutions for competitive Europe'.

'Low-carbon solutions' can fall into the five main thematic tags for this year:

- Net-zero technologies (e.g., net zero technologies and solutions, raw materials, competitiveness, SMEs, etc.)
- Cities and citizens (e.g., local leaderships, SECAPs, energy affordability, inclusion, energy communities, behavioural change, etc.)
- Renewables (e.g., permitting, tendering, community participation, technologies, RES in transport, RES in industry, etc.)
- Energy efficiency (e.g., reduction of energy demand, energy performance of buildings, products, industry, transport, financing, heating and cooling, heat pumps, etc.)
- International cooperation and decarbonisation (e.g., Green Deal measures, NECPs, COP29, Emissions Trading System)

How many partner organisations are required per submission? Is a minimum of two necessary? Can the two organisations be independent of each other?

Do applications to host a panel have to be from two separate organisers?

A minimum and maximum of two partner organisations is required to apply to host a policy session.

It is highly recommended that both associations are independent of each other. EUSEW targets a plurality of views, not only among the speakers but also between the two organisations partnering in the application. The Commission seeks synergies between the associations/organisations collaborating to apply for a policy session. This condition is in place to encourage collaboration and diversity in the creation and execution of policy sessions. The intention is to bring together different perspectives, expertise, and organisational backgrounds to enrich the content and discussions during the Policy Conference.

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Does the moderator also have to be part of the two organisations? Or can they be from a third one?

EUSEW seeks a plurality of views within the partner organisations applying for a session both in the profile of the speakers and in the choice of moderator. Having a moderator from a third organisation is therefore possible/encouraged.

Can the two organisers in an application be two institutions from the same consortium, or should the entire consortium be under one organiser (plus another one, like a sister project)? Also, what increases the chances of an application being successful?

It is better if the entire consortium is under one organiser, demonstrating synergies with other actors/organisations.

To increase the chances of being selected, firstly, the application needs to be clear. The evaluation team reviews many applications (over 250 last year) and clarity in the objectives improves the quality of the application. Secondly, ensuring a plurality of opinions from different speakers, maintaining gender balance, promoting interactivity, and alignment with the current debate on clean energy are key. (See also the questions above).

Can we host a session fully online or is it just hybrid? And can we keep our branding alongside EUSEW?

The conference organisers aim to have all sessions onsite with an online version.

Only EUSEW branding is allowed on the different stages of both venues (the Charlemagne Building and Martin's Hotel), therefore bringing personal roll-ups is not permitted. However, in the promotion of the session, especially on social media and in newsletters, session organisers are welcome to feature their branding alongside EUSEW's.

Can some speakers intervene online?

EUSEW aims to have as many speakers onsite as possible to foster networking between speakers and the audience in the room. However, if this is not possible, speakers will have remote access available. If one of your speakers finds it difficult to be onsite, s/he can join online. Please indicate this in the Agenda section of the form.

Due to recent elections, uncertainty exists about specific participants. Can we initially provide role descriptions instead of names in the application, and later update with names once the political situation stabilises?

It is advisable to be as precise as possible in the application. The more certain applicants are of their speakers' attendance, the better. This prevents applications that appear promising on

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paper from later having none of the listed individuals attend. The content of the application should closely match the final session result.

Can an organisation be part of more than two proposals as a speaker, not as co-organiser? 'Two proposals per organisation' - Does that mean that one organisation can apply as organiser of a maximum of 2 applications? Or does that also include being part of another proposal as a speaker?

An organisation that has submitted two applications can also be present in other applications in the speakers' list. However, the Commission encourages a plurality of views, and repeated representation of the same organisation in multiple sessions is to be avoided.

For policy sessions, is it possible to organise breakout groups? This would allow more interactivity with the audience.

EUSEW fosters creative ways to organise a policy session. Particular attention is paid to providing both onsite and online audiences with as much of the same experience of session as possible. If breakout groups are organised, they need to be coordinated with the available room setup.

Can regions or other local authorities participate in the call for policy sessions?

Can you confirm that 'cities and regions can apply' for the policy sessions?

Certainly, yes. One of the categories of organisation types eligible to apply is 'national, regional/local authorities, agencies, or other public bodies (including their networks)'. In addition, one of the thematic blocks for this edition of EUSEW is related to cities and citizens.

What counts as an 'organisation'? If we are an EU-funded project, do we apply as the project or as the organisation of the coordinator of the project, for example?

You can apply either as the organisation or the coordinator or as the EU-funded project. However, it is crucial that the two organisers are not from the same project, to ensure diversity.

If applying as the organisation of the coordinator, you can clarify in the description that you are an EU-funded project, and some speakers may represent the project.

Can a company be a speaker if it presents a non-profit or a research project?

Companies and business associations often co-organise events at EUSEW. However, the purpose and focus of the session should not be to promote a specific product or business.

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Sessions should present a plurality of opinions and select debates that are relevant to the energy transition agenda outlined during the info session.

What is the recommended number of speakers to have on a panel at a policy session? If we apply as two EU projects, can we have more than one speaker representing each project?

There are up to six seats for onsite speakers in each conference room, in addition to a place for the moderator. A session may be divided into two parts with more than six speakers in total, allowing for a change of speakers at the end of the first part if needed.

A maximum of six speakers is advised to ensure dynamic discussions.

Would it be possible that you assist us with finding a proper 'multiplier' who could be a moderator for the event at the same time?

Moderation is a key aspect of the interactivity of the session. The EUSEW organisational team can be contacted to help identify a suitable moderator. Please feel free to state on the application form that you would like to have the EUSEW Secretariat identify a moderator for your session, or reach out to us directly via email (conference@eusew.eu).

Could membership associations (related to energy) be eligible for the policy sessions?

A membership association is eligible as policy session organiser, as long as it meets the following two criteria:

- they work as multipliers, using a widespread network of contacts across Europe;
- they contribute to the development and implementation of sustainable energy policy.

Are universities eligible as organisations that can host a policy session? What could be their role?

Yes, a university is definitely eligible to be a policy session organiser. Universities can play a significant role in shaping discussions and contributing expertise. Representatives of universities are also eligible to participate as speakers.

Are organisations from the Western Balkans eligible to apply for policy sessions?

Yes, organisations from the Western Balkans are eligible to apply. However, they need to apply in collaboration with another organisation.

What is different from previous years?

The organisation of EUSEW remains consistent with the 2023 edition that took place in June. The main differences include a reinforced role for the moderator to actively engage in the debate and a limitation to two partner organisations per application.

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Would a company specialised in green hydrogen electrolyser manufacturing with strong R&D be eligible?

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- national, regional/local authorities, agencies, or other public bodies (including their networks);
- business, industry, or professional associations;
- non-governmental organisations (consumer associations, environmental organisations, etc.);
- citizens' groups (energy cooperatives, energy communities, youth groups);
- research and innovation organisations (research institutes, universities, scientific foundations, and technical colleges, think tanks, etc.);
- media and press corps.

In that sense, your company (a business) is an eligible applicant.

Can national members of network organisations present their projects/best practices during the workshop sessions, besides invited speakers? Is it possible that we aim to organise a policy session planned as a joint workshop (or a panel discussion) between 3-4 projects, provided that we find a proper policy 'multiplier' to be among the speakers or to act as a moderator?

Sessions at EUSEW should primarily tackle topics that contribute to the policy debate. A part of these sessions could be dedicated to the presentation of project results.

A joint workshop could be organised, provided that it involves both the online and onsite audiences and does not disrupt the implementation of the session.

EUSEW Awards

Regarding the Woman in Energy category requirements, how do you define 'woman'?

An individual who self-identifies as a woman will be considered a woman for this category. For more criteria, please check the [guidelines](#).

Regarding the awards, can organisations apply only for the first category (Innovation) or also for one of the other two (Woman in Energy and Local Energy Action)?

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EU-funded projects are not eligible for the Woman in Energy category awards, because it is an individual category, not a project category.

However, EU-funded projects can also apply to the Local Energy Action category if the project is more related to this than to innovation.

Is there any prize linked with the award? The interest apart from visibility is not very clear.

EUSEW awards are recognition prizes for the contributions organisations/individuals have made to the clean energy transition in Europe.

While there is no monetary reward, recipients receive a trophy, become part of the community, and benefit from promotion and increased visibility. The EUSEW organising team covers the trip and hotel of the 18 finalists invited to come to Brussels and produce a video of their projects.

For the awards, with the voting open to the public, is not there too big a risk of manipulating/cheating? E.g., someone voting 1 000 times from different IP addresses.

We have a dedicated team monitoring each finalist for suspicious activity online, including monitoring IPs and tracking the number of votes per day to prevent manipulation.

Regarding the awards, are cultural initiatives, such as art exhibitions on the topic, eligible?

Yes, if you can demonstrate that the art exhibition has delivered tangible impacts on clean energy. In the application form, you will need to provide evidence of these impacts to be eligible for the awards.

We applied last year as an example of citizens participating in offshore wind parks. Our investment depends on future tendering of zones. So 'not complete yet'. But this will only be in 2028-2030, long term. Should we wait until then to win?

You can apply, especially if you can convincingly explain the impact of your project, even if it is a long-term initiative.

Can the same organisation submit several applications for the awards in the same or another category?

Yes, if your organisation has different projects, you can submit multiple applications for different categories. However, you cannot apply multiple times with the same project.

Could you nominate a candidate for Woman in Energy award from a private company?

Yes. Please note that, in this category, the achievements of the woman are rewarded, not those of a company.

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Young Energy Ambassadors

What is the goal of having Young Ambassadors for EUSEW? And what are the responsibilities of the Youth Ambassadors?

The overarching goal is for Young Ambassadors to serve as representatives of the young generation, bridging the gap between policymakers and young people and providing valuable input.

Responsibilities include acting as amplifiers of the energy transition. While individuals may engage in various activities, it is crucial that Young Ambassadors disseminate information to audiences not typically reached.

This involves outreach at local level and connecting with those outside the EU bubble. From a technical perspective, being an ambassador means sharing event-related material, promoting calls, and ensuring the discovery of impactful projects and applicants.

When does the second Young Energy Ambassador application call open, and how do we find it?

The call is planned to open in January 2024. We will provide information about the opening of this call soon. We strongly encourage you to [subscribe to the EUSEW newsletter](#) to receive updates when the call opens.

What are the requirements to participate in European Youth Energy Day?

If you are a participant, there are no specific requirements; you simply need to register once registration opens in mid-April 2024.

However, if you aspire to become a Young Energy Ambassador, you should complete an application form. This form should include information about yourself, detailing your impact, whether you are an activist or an academic, and explaining why you are passionate about the energy transition.

Additionally, provide relevant links and any other information that adds value to your application.

Energy Fair

What are the main criteria for applicants for the energy fair?

The call to host a stand at EUSEW opens on 16 January 2024. Once the call for the Energy Fair is open, you will have guidelines available on the [website](#) outlining the main criteria for applicants.

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We strongly encourage you to [subscribe to the EUSEW newsletter](#) to receive updates when the call opens.

How can we apply to get a stand in the Energy Fair for a LIFE CET project?

Applications to apply for the Energy Fair should be submitted through the website once the call opens on 16 January 2024.

If we are selected for the Energy Fair, what costs are covered by EUSEW (if any), and what costs are on us?

EUSEW will provide you with the essential elements for your stand, including a table, highchairs, a screen, and a Wi-Fi connection.

However, you are responsible for bringing your own roll-ups and additional materials. EUSEW does not cover the costs associated with these supplementary items. EUSEW is a paperless event.

Sustainable Energy Days

Can you explain a little about the Sustainable Energy Days between March and June?

Sustainable Energy Days are events that take place anywhere around the world, promoting clean energy and energy efficiency. In the current context of the energy transition and independence of the energy supply, every Sustainable Energy Day is an opportunity to inspire behavioural changes and innovation towards meeting energy and climate goals in the EU and around the world.

You will benefit from additional visibility through the EUSEW communication channels that will promote Sustainable Energy Days.

The call to submit your proposal for a Sustainable Energy Day opens on 13 February 2024. Make sure you [subscribe to the EUSEW newsletter](#) to receive updates when the call opens.

Can we apply for the Energy Days with an event as individual organisation and, if yes, can we also apply for 2 policy sessions with a joint application?

Yes, you can apply for the Energy Days with an event as an individual organisation.

For the policy sessions, you can apply for two policy sessions with a joint application. However, please note that a maximum of two applications can be submitted for the policy sessions.

Could you please elaborate on the added value of organising an event as part of the Sustainable Energy Days? How is EUSEW promoting these?

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The support is primarily in terms of visibility and promotion.

What we offer is to publish these events on a map on our website, as well as promoting the concept of Sustainable Energy Days on our social media accounts and in our newsletter and providing the different organisers a toolkit to promote the Sustainable Energy Days.

For the Energy Days: is an event taking place at the end of June eligible?

Yes. An event occurring at the end of June is eligible for inclusion in the Sustainable Energy Days.

These events will take place between March and June 2024 (inclusive), exploring a variety of topics in sessions of different formats and durations.