



Letter of intent
Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking
European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency

The purpose of this letter of intent is to agree on the principles of a possible future collaboration between the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (hereafter the JU) and the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (hereafter EISMEA).

1. Policy Context

Hydrogen is becoming more and more important for the European Union to achieve its goals of fighting climate change, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and securing strategic independence.

The Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (JU) is a European public private partnership set up as a key element in the policy approach of Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The JU supports research and innovation activities related to hydrogen technologies in the European Union since 2008, as a successor of the FCH 2 JU and FCH JU. The JU is a key instrument of Union policy dedicated to research and innovation activities on clean hydrogen, focusing in areas related primarily to the production of clean hydrogen, as well as the distribution, storage and end use applications of low carbon hydrogen in hard to abate sectors. These activities are guided to a large extent by the EU’s Green Deal and Hydrogen Strategy and the policy developments in this context, contributing to their implementation.

EISMEA is managing the European Innovation Council (EIC), Europe’s flagship innovation programme to identify, develop and scale up deep-tech breakthrough technologies and game changing innovations. The EIC takes a pro-active approach to managing funding under the leadership of EIC Programme Managers who develop visions for innovation and technology breakthroughs and steer portfolios of projects to achieve these goals. Currently a portfolio has been established in innovative hydrogen-based technologies.

In order to accelerate the market uptake of the EIC grantees on hydrogen in Europe and to facilitate knowledge exchange on hydrogen-related beneficiaries, the two EU implementing bodies seek to establish a formal content-wise working cooperation, starting from the date of mutual agreement of this note.



2. Objectives

The objective of this letter of intent is to generate synergies in the activities of the two funding bodies, in support of the hydrogen ecosystem by:

- Exchanging content based information on selected and funded grants and beneficiaries (ongoing and ended grants/projects) as well as non-selected grants and applicants in the field of innovative hydrogen based technologies;
- Enabling effective sharing of information and reporting of EIC hydrogen related grants/projects in the Clean Hydrogen JU database (e.g. TRUST), and vice versa;
- Aligning funding opportunities regarding hydrogen based technologies within the European institutions;
- Enabling pipeline synergies by considering successive funding opportunities for further uptake of results stemming from the EIC topics via the Clean Hydrogen JU annual calls – and vice versa.

All of the above points are without prejudice to applicable data protection and/or confidentiality requirements.

3. Next Steps

After mutual agreement, Clean Hydrogen JU and EISMEA will:

- Appoint Clean Hydrogen JU and EIC points of contact to be involved in the collaboration;
- Immediately start implementing this collaboration and related activities;
- Revise the effectiveness of this collaboration one year from signing.

Brussels, 25 November 2022

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