

EN

RESEARCH FUND FOR COAL AND STEEL

Research Programme Information Package

Part 2 – Calls for proposals

DISCLAIMER

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1 Calls for proposals

1.1 RFCS Annual Call 2021 - RFCS-2021

The following Call under the RFCS Research Programme should contribute the policy and research objectives of RFCS, as they are stated in Part 1.

Call	Deadline(s)
RFCS Annual Call 2021	22 September 2021 17:00:00 Brussels local time

1.2 Indicative Call timetable

Evaluation Session Remote	4 October – 18 November 2021
Meeting of the Coal Advisory Group (CAG)	7 December 2021
Meeting of the Steel Advisory Group (SAG)	8 December 2021
Meeting of the COSCO	21 January 2022
Commission Decision	
Notification of evaluation results to applicants	February 2022
Grant Agreement signature for projects retained for funding	before 15 June 2022

1.3 Structure of the Call

Eligible activity ¹	Percentage of total budget	EU contribution rate
RFCS-01-2021-RPJ - RFCS-2021 Coal Research Projects	27.2 %	60%
RFCS-01-2021-PDP - RFCS-2021 Coal Pilot and Demonstration Projects		50%
RFCS-01-2021-AM - RFCS-2021 Coal Accompanying Measures		100%
RFCS-02-2021-RPJ - RFCS-2021 Steel Research Projects	72.8%	60%

¹ Chapter III, Section 2 « Eligible activities » of Decision 2008/376/EC amendments in force.

RFCS-02-2021-PDP - RFCS-2021 Steel Pilot and Demonstration Projects		50%
RFCS-02-2021-AM - RFCS-2021 Steel Accompanying Measures		100%

1.4 Conditions relating to the Call

General conditions applicable to all RFCS Calls are provided in Part 3 – General Provisions. Specific conditions applicable to the present Call are listed below.

1.4.1 Evaluation procedure

Single-stage submission procedure.

1.4.2 Admissibility and eligibility

Consortia funded under *Pilot and Demonstration Projects* and *Research Projects* actions in both sectors (Coal and Steel) require the participation of at least one beneficiary from the respective industry. Specific conditions on Admissibility and Eligibility are described in Part 3 of the Information Package, "General Provisions".

1.4.3 Annual Priorities 2021

0.5 bonus points will be granted to proposals that address the annual priority relevant in their sector (coal or steel). Proposals should indicate clearly if and how they addresses the annual priority.

Coal Annual Priority 2021

Proposals addressing emerging and innovative technologies supporting coal regions in transition, contributing to the objectives of the European Green Deal.

Proposals should address the repurposing of end-of-life coal-related assets and infrastructure at coal mines and/or coal power plants through the application of emerging and innovative technologies in one or more of the following areas: renewable energy, large-scale energy storage, CO₂ use and storage, GHG removals, sector coupling, circular economy and enhanced soil and land/water remediation/restoration.

In addressing the priority, proposals should include an economic assessment (including CAPEX, OPEX, cash flows and expected financial outcomes) to determine their likely commercial viability, employment impact and economic added value.

In addition, projects are encouraged to address socio-economic research that relates to the just transition, e.g. by addressing the training and re-skilling of workers of the coal sector, as well as other forms of support to the economic, social and environmental transition of coal regions in transition.

Projects are also encouraged to address research that stimulates new economic activities and employment opportunities in the coal regions in transition identified by the European Commission under its Coal Regions in Transition initiative.

Steel Annual Priority 2021

There is no annual priority for Steel.

1.4.4 Duration of the action

Research projects and *Pilot and Demonstration projects* are expected to run for 36 or 42 months, while *Accompanying Measures* are expected to run for 18 or 24 months.

The recommended start date of the projects is 1 July of the calendar year following the year of the submission of the proposal.