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ENOVA

Environmental studies Scheme

State aid Reference no.:

GBER 53/2023/ENV

1. State

Norway

2. Title of aid scheme

Environmental studies Scheme (The Scheme).

3. National legal basis

The national legal basis for Enova SF as aid grantor is:

- Parliamentary Decision of 5 April 2001¹ on the basis of a proposition by the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy of 21 December 2000². The Parliamentary Decision amends the Energy Act of 29 June 1990 No 50 (Energiloven)
- The Agreement³ (Avtalen) between Enova and the Ministry of Climate and Environment⁴ on the management of the funds derived from Enova's budget.

All aid provided under this Scheme will be within the limits set out in Article 49

¹ Odelstingets vedtak til lov om endringer i lov 29. juni 1990 nr. 50 om produksjon, omforming, overføring, omsetning og fordeling av energi m.m. (energilova). (Besl.O.nr.75 (2000-2001), jf. Innst.O.nr.59 (2000-2001) og Ot.prp.nr.35 (2000-2001)).

² Ot.prp.nr.35 (2000-2001)

³ The agreement can be found in: <https://www.enova.no/om-enova/om-organisasjonen/oppdragsbrev-og-avtaler/>

⁴ On the 1st May 2018 the ownership of Enova (and the Agreement) was transferred from the Ministry of Oil and Energy to the Ministry of Climate and Environment. Reference is made to the letter of assignment (Oppdrags brev 2019) of Enova's ownership. https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/051d75e38a4743c3a29f2bb169a4443d/enova_2019.pdf

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of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014⁵ declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (General Block Exemption Regulation).

The national legal basis for aid granted under this Scheme is the programme specific regulations⁶ and the present document⁷ describing the Scheme's compliance under Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014.

In order to ensure compliance with the Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 (GBER), aid under the Programme must fulfil the relevant requirements set in GBER in chapters I, II and III.

4. Definitions

For the purpose of the Scheme the definitions laid down in Chapter 1 Article 2 of the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) are applied by Enova.

5. Objective of the Scheme

The objective of the Scheme is to initiate studies in the field of efficient and environmentally friendly use of energy or reduced GHG emissions within transport, industry, stand-alone facilities and buildings, as well as assess investments in technology achieving a higher level of environmental protection.

The Scheme is not sector specific and is technology neutral.

6. Eligible Costs

In line with article 7 GBER, for the purposes of calculating aid intensity and eligible costs, all figures used shall be taken before any deduction of tax or other charge. The eligible costs shall be supported by documentary evidence which shall be clear, specific and contemporary. Aid payable in the future, including aid payable in several instalments, shall be discounted to its value at the moment it is granted. The eligible costs shall be discounted to their value at the moment the aid is granted. The interest rate to be used for discounting purposes shall be the discount rate applicable at the moment the aid is granted.

The costs of the project must be transparent and directly and exclusively related to the project. The eligible costs must be specified at the time of application and shall be the costs for the environmental studies.

7. Aid Intensities

Aid intensity

⁵ A full version of the Regulation can be found at:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02014R0651-20210801>

⁶ As a rule, Enova's programmes are authorized by Enova's board, before being published on Enova's website: <https://www.enova.no/bedrift/stotte-til-energi--og-klimatiltak-i-virksomheter/>.

⁷ The present document can be found in [enova.no/esa](https://www.enova.no/esa)

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Small enterprises	70 %
Medium-sized enterprises	60 %
Large enterprises	50 %

8. Notification Threshold

Aid awarded under this scheme will be granted up to EUR 15 million per undertaking per investment project.

9. Body authorized to implement the Scheme

Enova SF⁸ is the authorized body to implement the Scheme.

10. Scope of the Scheme

The scheme will be open to undertakings that are registered in Norway and supports projects that are located in Norway.

In line with article 1 §4(a) and (c) and article 2 §18(a) of GBER aid will not be granted to undertakings that are:

- Subjects to a pending recovery order; or
- In financial difficulties

11. Duration of the Scheme

The scheme will run from 1st January 2021 until December 31st 2024.

12. Budget for Aid under the Scheme

The estimated annual budget for the Scheme will be maximum 250 million NOK.

Should the budget for this scheme increase, Enova will inform the EFTA Surveillance Authority.

13. Form of aid

. Aid will be awarded in the form of grants.

⁸ <https://www.enova.no/about-enova/about-enova/259/0/>

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14. Eligible activities to be supported under the Scheme

The Scheme supports the following activities:

Feasibility studies on the implementation of energy measures within the industry

Introduction of energy management within transport, industry and stand-alone facilities

Concept studies - Assessment of innovative energy efficient buildings e.g. energy solutions for area development, storage and power leveling solutions, solutions for the exterior of buildings or measuring and controlling systems

Support for mapping of energy measures in existing buildings that contribute to reduced energy consumption and conversion to renewable heating solutions

Support to feasibility studies for the implementation of new energy and climate technologies.

There is no automatic entitlement to support from the Scheme. All support is subject to rigorous due diligence appraisal and internal approval by Enova and all projects shall be assessed against the conditions of the scheme and the criteria set out by Enova in the relevant programme.

15. Transparency

All aid awarded under the Scheme will be transparent and in line with criteria set out in Article 5 of the GBER. Only aid for which it is possible to calculate precisely the gross grant equivalent of the aid ex ante without any need to undertake a risk assessment will be provided under the Scheme (art 5 (1) GBER).

16. Incentive effect

Aid recipients must demonstrate that the aid is required for projects to proceed by submitting a written application before work on the project or activity has started. The application will as a minimum contain the following information (Art 6 GBER):

- (a) Name and size of the undertaking receiving the aid;
- (b) Description of the project, including its start and end dates;
- (c) Location of the project;
- (d) List of project costs;
- (e) Form of aid and amount of public funding needed for the project.

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17. Cumulation

In determining whether the notification thresholds and the maximum aid intensities are respected, the total amount of State aid for the aided activity or project or undertaking shall be taken into account (Art 8 GBER). The total amount of State aid may be comprised of local, regional, national or other funds managed and controlled by Norway as a contracting party to the EEA Agreement.

EU funding that is understood as centrally managed by the institutions, agencies, joint undertakings or other bodies of the EU and outside the direct and indirect control of Norway will not be regarded as state aid and will thus not be taken into account when determining whether notification thresholds and maximum aid intensities or maximum aid amounts are respected.

The total amount of public funding, which includes State aid and EU funding together and is granted in relation to the same eligible costs should not exceed the most favourable funding rate⁹ laid down in the applicable rules of EU/EEA Law.

Aid under the Programme that is granted based on identifiable eligible costs may be cumulated with

- any other State aid, as long as those measures concern different identifiable eligible costs;
- any other State aid, in relation to the same eligible costs, partly or fully overlapping, only if such cumulation does not result in exceeding the highest aid intensity or aid amount applicable to this aid under GBER.

Aid provided under this Programme will not be cumulated with any de minimis aid in respect of the same eligible costs, if such cumulation would breach the applicable aid intensities.

In all cases, cumulation of aid under the Programme will respect the rules set out in article 8 of GBER.

18. Publication, Information, Reporting and Monitoring requirements

Enova will ensure the publication on Norway's national State aid register (art 9 GBER) of:

- The summary information about each aid measure exempted under GBER in the standardised format laid down in Annex II of the GBER (ref. GBER information sheet), or a link providing access to it
- The full text of each aid measure, including its amendments (ref. the Scheme), or a link providing access to it

⁹ The term "funding rate" is broader than "aid intensity". It refers to the ratio of the total amount of public funding (State aid and EU funding together) to the eligible costs for a specific project.

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- The information referred to in Annex III of the GBER on each individual aid award exceeding EUR 500 000

In particular, the information on each individual aid award shall be organised and accessible in a standardised manner, as described in GBER Annex III, and shall allow for effective search and download functions.

All the above information shall be published within 6 months from the date the aid was granted and shall be available for at least 10 years from the date on which the aid was granted.

Enova will follow the requirements on reporting and monitoring as they are described in articles 11 and 12 of the GBER.

Detailed records with the necessary information and supporting documentation will be maintained for 10 years from the date of the last award of aid under the Scheme.

Enova will provide the EFTA Surveillance Authority with all the information and documentation it considers necessary to monitor the application of the GBER within 20 days of such request from the Authority.