



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

**SELECTION OF CLEAN ENERGY MINI-GRID
(CEMG) ENTERPRISES TO PARTICIPATE IN A
REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING**



BACKGROUND

CONTEXT

ECREEE in cooperation with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the Luxembourg Cooperation created the ECOWAS RE Entrepreneurship Support Facility in April 2015. ECREEE and GIZ intend to expand the scope of the facility and create a dedicated window for entrepreneurs and/or developers who invested in or are planning to invest in Clean Energy Mini-Grids (CEMG) with support from the project “Improving the governance of the RE and EE sector in West Africa” which is known by its French acronym AGoSEREE-AO.

The current Call for Applications is based on the ECREEE/GIZ funded project “*Clean Energy Mini-grids (CEMG) Qualitative Study and Entrepreneurship Support in the ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania*”. The main objective of this project is to tackle the lack of information and technical capacity of CEMG entrepreneurs, developers and/or operators in the ECOWAS sub-region.

For this, ECREEE/GIZ aims to conduct two regional training for selected existing and potential CEMG entrepreneurs, developers and/or operators on the basis of the challenges of existing CEMG operators. The first one will cover ECOWAS francophone area while this second one will be directed to the Anglophone and Lusophone ECOWAS areas.

ECOWAS CENTRE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY (ECREEE)

The ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) was established in response to the recommendation of the ECOWAS/UEMOA White Paper on access to energy services in rural and peri-urban areas issued in 2006. This recommendation was given a further boost by the Ouagadougou Declaration, where the ECOWAS Conference on Peace and Security on the 12th of November 2007, articulated the need to establish the center. At the same conference, the Austrian Minister for European and International Affairs and UNIDO pledged support for the creation and take-off of the center.

In November 2008, the 61st Session of ECOWAS Council of Ministers adopted Regulation C/REG.23/11/08 and gave the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) a legal basis. In 2010, the secretariat of the Centre was established during a six-month preparatory phase in Praia, Cape Verde, with the support of the ECOWAS Commission and the Austrian and Spanish Governments, as well as technical assistance from UNIDO.

ECREEE is a specialized ECOWAS agency which acts as an independent body but operates within the legal, administrative and financial framework of ECOWAS rules and regulations.

More information at: www.ecreee.org

DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT (GIZ)

GIZ has over 50 years of experience in a wide variety of areas (previously widely known as GTZ), including economic development and employment promotion, energy and the environment, and peace and security. GIZ provides support to the German Government, European Union institutions, the United Nations, the private sector, governments, civil society actors and research institutions.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

1. ELIGIBLE CLEAN ENERGY MINI-GRID (CEMG) ENTREPRISES

Clean Energy Mini-grid Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) based in any of the **Anglophone and Lusophone ECOWAS** countries which are:

- i. Companies already developing, constructing, managing, operating and/or maintaining CEMG;
- ii. Companies interested and potentially involved in future in developing, constructing, managing, operating and/or maintaining CEMG.

In the framework of this call “MSME from the ECOWAS region” is considered any enterprise legally registered in at least an ECOWAS member state and Mauritania.

2. SERVICES

The selected MSMEs will receive a one-week training module in Accra, Ghana, conducted by the consulting company Trama Techno Ambiental (TTA) and with the support from ECREEE and GIZ and covering a wide range of topics in the CEMG space, including highly demanded technical areas such as:

- Technical Training (Introduction to CEMG, advance design and Management & Operation & Maintenance (M&O&M));
- Financial Training (introduction to CEMG economics, CEMG business models, financial modelling);
- Business Development Training (business development strategy, capital raising and growth plan);
- Overview on the Technical and Economic designing tools (Homer, RETScreen) and
- Community engagement and awareness raising with community stakeholders.

The teaching methods proposed will include:

- Theoretical lessons (lecture in class or workshop)
- Tutorials (calculations and examples in class. Pictures, videos, electric diagrams)
- Practical exercises (software exercises and case studies)
- Remote participation of other experts from TTA or interventions of experts from the host-country (if possible).

3. APPLICATION

Interested enterprises must provide all the information required, including:

1. *Application submission Letter;*
2. *General information on the enterprise;*
3. *Previous or current experience in the CEMG area;*
4. *Experience in renewable energy project (development, construction and operation) generally for those not already having experience on CEMG;*
5. *CV of the key staff in the company as well as proposed staff to participate in the regional capacity building training;*
6. *Updated organization chart of the company including total number of employees;*
7. *Portfolio of on-going and/or expected future installation, construction, development or operation of CEMGs;*
8. *Main challenges experienced so far with the CEMGs.*

All the provided information will strictly be used only for the evaluation of the applications and will be treated with the maximum discretion.

Applications shall be submitted online no later than 23h59 (UTC-1) on Friday, 20th December 2019 at: renfacility@ecreee.org

For any question related with the application process, interested enterprises can contact:

esemedo@ecreee.org / gkouhie@ecreee.org / mflan@ecreee.org;

4. SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCESS

The criteria will include experience, qualification and gender indicators, which will be weighted according to their relevance. The criteria will be commensurate with the level of detail of the data that can be made available by the CEMG entrepreneurs, developers and/or operators. The evaluation criteria will be established to make sure the highest impact possible will be reached under the ECOWAS the RE Entrepreneurship Support Facility.

All the received application will be carefully evaluated, considering:

- **Experience of the enterprise and its experts - depth of portfolio of expected and potential CEMG (Number of existing CEMG developed, constructed or operated by the company) _30%;**
- **Existence of RE experience_10%;**
- **Qualification of the key staff and the proposed staff to participate in the capacity building (Number of permanent staff) _15%;**
- **Existence of planned CEMG pipeline_30%;**
- **Gender positive aspects (e.g. gender balance in the enterprise and CV proposed for female participants) _15%**

In this second call, eight (08) to ten (10) MSMEs will be selected, ideally one (01) MSME from each of the ECOWAS Anglophone and Lusophone Member States. The final decision on the number of selected companies will be taken based on the received applications.

Important Note:

This regional training aims at MSMEs based in at English and Portuguese-speaking ECOWAS Member States. Individual candidates (not applying under MSMEs) will be rejected!