

ANNEX 1 – Evaluation Criteria

1. MINIMUM QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

Type of applicant: registered startups, private or state-owned enterprises, non-profits, and/or academic institutions, individuals and associations.

Stage: Applicants with a prototype, Minimum Viable Product (MVP)* or further developed solutions are encouraged to apply.

Geographical area of operations: Applicants must be based in the Republic of Moldova or demonstrate a clear intention to deploy their solution or project in Republic of Moldova. Foreign legal entities can apply if they establish a branch in Republic of Moldova for the entire duration of the sandbox project.

Application: Complete and duly submitted, in English, through the UNDP Quantum Platform and before the communicated deadline.

Thematic area: The innovation challenge will target solutions and projects that corresponds to at least one of the following domains:

- **Collective Self-Consumption and Energy Communities** - solutions to promote shared production and local use of electric energy, regulatory frameworks, grid integration, and others.
- **Electromobility** – infrastructure development for electric vehicles, smart charging solutions, and vehicle-to-grid integration to optimize energy consumption and support the transition to clean transportation, and others.
- **Flexibility and balancing services** – innovations that improve grid stability through demand response mechanism, battery storage solutions, real-time energy trading, and others.
- **Integration of renewable energy sources, and biogas & biomethane production** – converting agricultural waste into biogas, expansion of renewable energy capacities in solar, wind, and others.
- **Smart Grids** - infrastructure development, modernization, Integration of renewables, balancing solutions, and others.

Note: The applicant should list in the application form any type of engagement (Low Value Grants, Responsible Party Agreement, works/service contracts or others) with UNDP Moldova during the 2023-2027 period (completed and active ones), including details on the received budget.

I. PARTICIPANT SELECTION

Element of evaluation	Metrics for scoring	Maximum weighted score
Innovative scale of the proposed project: potential to make an important contribution to the development of the field of energy, accordingly, production, transport, distribution, storage of energy from renewable sources, supply and consumption of energy, but without limiting to the use of renewable energy sources, its storage or to advanced alternative solutions for supply, distribution or consumption of electricity, thermal energy and natural gas.	0% if, lacks originality and does not introduce any new concepts compared to existing common practices in Moldova. No potential for disruption or differentiation from existing solutions; up to a maximum of 20% when highly innovative, unique, and groundbreaking. Strong potential to transform existing technical and/or financial practices or markets.	20%
Justification for the request for approval of exemptions from legislative or regulatory provisions that prevent or hinder substantially the implementation of the innovative testing project. Exemptions from the regulatory framework requested for the implementation of the innovative testing project do not contravene the international obligations assumed by the Republic of Moldova.	0% if, no justification or no need to exemptions from legislative or regulatory provisions for developing and testing the solution; up to a maximum of 20% when in force legislation and regulations represents a barrier for developing the proposed solution.	20%
Impact Potential: Anticipated ability to contribute to the improvement of regulatory rules and process of learning in the regulatory field. Anticipated social, environmental, and economic benefits; measurable outcomes and key performance indicators; alignment with the challenge's objectives.	0% if, lacks a clear impact strategy and measurable outcomes, no methodology linking activities to outcomes, and weak alignment with objective; up to a maximum of 20% when highly transformative with significant, measurable social, environmental, regulatory, and economic impact. Clear methodology and strong KPIs.	20%
Feasibility and Scalability: Clarity of objectives and implementation plan; resource availability and realistic timelines; technological and operational feasibility. Potential for co-financing. Potential for expansion and growth beyond the current scope; ability to adapt to changing market	0% if, objectives and implementation plan are unclear. Resource requirements are unrealistic, and execution is highly uncertain due to feasibility risks; up to a maximum of 20% when clear objectives, well-structured implementation plan, and strong resource allocation are provided. Highly feasible with minimal execution risks. highly scalable with clear	20%

conditions; strategies for scaling without compromising quality or impact.	strategies for growth and adaptation. Can expand while maintaining quality and impact.	
Management Competence and experience of the management team. Clear roles and responsibilities within the team and demonstrated capacity for effective project execution.	0% if, management team lacks relevant experience and expertise. Roles are unclear, and capacity to execute the project is highly uncertain; up to a maximum 20% when highly skilled, experienced management team with clearly defined roles. Strong leadership and a proven track record of execution, technical experts with relevant experience as part of the team.	20%

2. INNOVATION PRIZE

Acceptance of conditions: Organization/Individuals shall confirm that all terms and conditions under the UNDP General Terms and Conditions and Special Conditions have been accepted without any deviation or reservation.

Budget items: The budget shall clearly specify how the prize will be used. Typical items that can be covered by the grant include, but are not limited to:

- Salaries of project staff
- Technology, design, business development and other consultancy services
- Equipment and supplies
- Training and workshop expenses
- Costs including travel connected to the implementation and scaling of the innovation.