



# Net-Zero AI4Permitting

# PPPA-2026-NETZERO

INFO SESSION  
13 April 2026

# Background and policy context

- Permitting – why it is important?
- Latest EU policy developments
- Background on NZIA
- Objectives of the call
- Themes and priorities

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# Permitting – why is it important?

1) Reaching green transition goals



2) Boosting competitiveness



The Spokesman-Review



3) Increasing economic security

4) Strengthening energy Security



# Symptoms and impact

**Complex regulatory environment:** 16 EU legislations affecting permitting

**Slow permitting:** for **60%** of companies, permit granting process takes between **1-6 years**. (BusinessEurope survey May-June 2023 and GROW workshop 2024)

**Multi-authority involvement and lack of coordination:** between 5-10 different authorities involved

## Impact on companies

| Technology                 | <br>Onshore Wind<br>35 MW   | <br>Hydro Power<br>4 MW      | <br>Hydro Power<br>1 MW                             | <br>Rooftop Solar<br>380 kW |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Delay                      | 7 years                     | 7 years                      | 3-4 years<br><small>(projected)</small>             | 2 years                     |
| Cost of delay              | €4 850 000                  | €1 750 000                   | €360 000 -<br>600 000<br><small>(projected)</small> | €25 000                     |
| Cost as % of project value | 9%<br><small>(est.)</small> | 26%<br><small>(est.)</small> | 22-36%<br><small>(projected est.)</small>           | 10%                         |

**Impact at EU level:** long and complex permitting procedures are one of the **key obstacles to renewable energy deployment.** (Draghi 2024)

Figure 1: Source: WEF, based on reports from EURELECTRIC, IRENA, and ECB



# EU policy developments

○ **Accelerating industrial permitting** is fundamental for creating a competitive and sustainable manufacturing sector in Europe.

**Digitalisation is considered as a key element** in reaching this goal.

Most recent developments:

1. Regulation on speeding-up environmental assessments - [COM\(2025\) 984 final](#)
2. Directive on acceleration of permit-granting procedures (European Grids Package) [COM\(2025\) 1007 final](#)
3. Industrial Accelerator Act - [COM\(2026\) 100 final](#)



# Key deadlines and requirements

| Legal Act   | Digitalisation Requirement   | Deadline |
|---|--|----------|
| Single Digital Gateway (SDG)  | Digitalise all Annex II procedures + Once Only Technical System (OOTS) for cross-border document exchange. | Dec 2023 |
| Renewable Energy Directive (RED III)                                | Mandatory e-permitting for all renewable energy projects.  | Nov 2025 |
| Net Zero Industry Act (NZIA) / Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA)    | Permits added to SDG Annex II + OOTS support.  | Jun 2024 |
| European Grids Package - acceleration of permit-granting procedures | Single digital portal for grids/storage/renewables permits.  | TBD 2026 |
| Regulation on speeding-up environmental assessments                 | Electronic EIA/SEA submissions + cross-border data sharing.  | TBD 2027 |
| Industrial Accelerator Act  | Digital one-stop-shop for industrial permits   | TBD 2028 |
| Industrial Emissions Directive                                      | Electronic permitting for industrial installations   | Dec 2035 |

# Background on Net Zero Industry Act

The Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA) aims to

- enhance European manufacturing capacity for net-zero technologies, addressing barriers to scaling up production in Europe
- increase the competitiveness of the net-zero technology sector,
- attract investments,
- improve market access for clean tech in the EU.

# Net Zero Acceleration Valleys

- Industry clusters which aim to attract investment in net-zero technology manufacturing projects at regional and local levels.
- EU countries are responsible for designating valleys and preparing plans that set out concrete national measures to support net-zero technology manufacturing and simplify administrative procedures.
- Bottlenecks in existing permitting processes, such as lack of interoperability, outdated infrastructure, and administrative inefficiencies, have been highlighted as barriers which can be alleviated through targeted digital solutions.

# Net-Zero AI4Permitting - Objectives

- Strengthen the administrative capacity of permitting authorities in Net-Zero Acceleration Valleys
- Deploy digital and AI enabled solutions that reduce processing time, improve transparency and optimise the use of staff resources
- Ensure that all permitting processes comply robustly with EU and national legislative frameworks

# Net-Zero AI4Permitting – Objectives (2)

- By incorporating state-of-the-art digital and AI technologies:
  - automate routine tasks,
  - reduce the burden on permitting authorities and allowing them to focus on more strategic decision-making.
  - improve transparency,
  - enable easier tracking of processes, deadlines and follow-up actions
  - make permitting more user friendly both for applicants and authorities.

# Net-Zero AI4Permitting – Objectives (3)

- Facilitate cross-border cooperation to share best practices and successful models,
- promote replication and scalability of effective solutions in other regions,
- capture insights and feedback, ensuring that solutions are tailored to meet actual user needs to make front office systems user-centric and efficient.

# Themes and priorities

- **Acceleration and streamlining of permitting processes**
- **Digital infrastructure interoperability**
- **Compliance with EU and national legislation**
- **Cross-regional and cross-border replication and reusability**
- **Alignment with ongoing digitalization initiatives**
- **Consultation and feedback collection**
- **Deployment and training to upskill staff**

# Scope of the activities to be funded by the call

- **Conducting a system analysis**
- **Procurement and/or deployment of digital/AI-based solutions**
- **Enhancement of existing IT solutions**
- **Development of user-centric front office systems**
- **Comprehensive staff training programmes**
- **Collaboration with ongoing digitalization initiatives**

# Scope of the activities to be funded by the call

- **Consultations for feedback and system improvement**
- **Cooperation activities between authorities**
- **Packaging outputs for replication and reuse**
- **Engagement with Project Developers and IT/AI Solution Providers**

# Expected impacts

- Substantial reduction in time and resource consumption, leading to faster processing and more efficient allocation of resources through streamlined procedures and automated digital platforms
- Enhanced interoperability and data-sharing across systems
- More cohesive network of information exchange, reducing redundancies and increasing transparency in the permitting process.
- Cross-border sharing of experiences and
- Measurable replication of readiness and uptake beyond the pilot sites