27 July 2026 | ENERGY

State Aid Scheme in Romania
for Autonomous Battery Energy Storage Installations
(BESS Stand-alone)

Order of the Minister of Energy No. 745/2026, published in the Official Gazette of Romania No. 610/27 July 2026 (entry into force date)

Non-refundable financing from the Modernisation Fund

Approved by EC Decision No. C(2026) 1.588 final

Total budget: EUR 150,000,000 (non-refundable)
Scheme application deadline: This scheme applies until 31 December 2030

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ministry of Energy published in the Official Gazette on 27 July 2026, Order No. 745/2026 establishing a state aid scheme worth EUR 150 million, **intended for financing autonomous (stand-alone) battery energy storage installations (BESS) connected to electricity transmission or distribution lines, regardless of voltage levels.**

The scheme is financed by the Modernisation Fund and has been approved by the European Commission.

EUR 150 million	EUR 15 million	EUR 69,000/MWh	100%
Total non-refundable budget	Maximum per beneficiary regardless of the number of projects submitted	Maximum state aid value per MWh of installed storage	Maximum intensity

Why does it matter to investors?

- An applicant may submit one or more projects
- 100% non-refundable financing - capital costs fully covered
- The state aid granted may be cumulated with any other state aid as long as the respective measures relate to different identifiable eligible costs
- Growing market - Romania targets 2,000 MW storage capacity by 2035
- Flexible connection - at any voltage level (transmission or distribution)
- Transparent competitive selection based on competitive bidding procedure - single criterion: lowest cost/MWh
- EC approval obtained — scheme SA.121308 approved, minimal regulatory risk

National targets: 1,200 MW / 2,400 MWh by 2030; 2,000 MW by 2035. Minimum capacity targeted through this scheme: 2,174 MWh.

WHO CAN APPLY — ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

The scheme is open to a wide range of economic operators, from micro-enterprises to large enterprises, including newly established companies.

Partnerships are NOT accepted — each project must be submitted individually.

Categories of applicants

- Micro-enterprises, SMEs and large enterprises
- Newly established enterprises (minimum share capital RON 100,000)
- Legally established in accordance with national legislation or specific legislation of the EU Member State whose nationality they hold and which have submitted to the Ministry of Energy a financing

application under the competitive bidding procedure for granting state aid for the construction on the territory of Romania of new autonomous electricity storage installations, before the start of works, in accordance with the requirements set out in this Scheme and the Applicant's Guide for supporting investments in the development of autonomous (stand-alone) battery storage installations

- Registered with the Trade Register (ONRC) no later than the date of signing the financing contract

Mandatory eligibility conditions

Criterion	Requirement
Mandatory NACE code	Division 35: Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
Financial status	Not in insolvency, bankruptcy or liquidation
Tax obligations	Budgetary obligations up to date (no arrears)
Prior state aid	No outstanding recovery order for aid
Undertaking in difficulty	CANNOT be an undertaking in difficulty pursuant to Regulation (EU) 651/2014
Non-cooperative jurisdictions (EC Recommendation No. 1,039/2020)	The applicant: (i) is not a tax resident in EU non-cooperative jurisdictions; (ii) is not controlled by shareholders from such jurisdictions; (iii) does not control subsidiaries in these jurisdictions; (iv) does not exercise joint ownership rights with undertakings from non-cooperative jurisdictions
Solvency	Total debt / Equity < 7.5 OR bank comfort letter
Prior projects	Has not received financing for the same eligible costs
Professional conduct (legal representative)	The applicant/legal representative has not been subject to final convictions for professional conduct contrary to law
Fraud, corruption (legal representative)	The applicant/legal representative has not been the subject of a res judicata judgment for fraud, corruption, involvement in criminal organisations or other illegal activities
Conflict of interest (legal representative)	The legal representative and project manager are not in a conflict-of-interest situation pursuant to national and European legislation

⚠ Attention

Partnerships are not permitted. Each project must be submitted by a single applicant.

Newly established enterprises must have a minimum share capital of RON 100,000.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS — TECHNICAL CONDITIONS

The scheme finances exclusively new, autonomous (stand-alone) battery storage installations, without an energy generation component. Projects must meet strictly defined minimum technical parameters.

≥ 1 MW	2:1	Autonomous
Minimum installed capacity	MWh:MW ratio (min. 2h operation)	Stand-alone (without RES)

Detailed technical conditions

- The project is implemented on the territory of Romania
- Minimum installed capacity: 1 MW
- Capacity/power ratio: minimum 2:1 (MWh:MW) - minimum 2 hours of operation at installed capacity
- Connection to the electricity transmission OR distribution network (any voltage level)
- NEW installations - replacements of existing installations are not accepted
- AUTONOMOUS installations - without renewable energy generation component
- Submission of the grid connection approval is not mandatory at the time of filing the financing application, but is mandatory by the time of submitting the first payment request.
- The project respects the “incentive effect” principle as defined in Article 5(d) of the Order

WHAT IS NOT ELIGIBLE — EXCLUSIONS

⚠ Explicit exclusions

✗ Combined projects (RES generation + storage)
✗ Lead-based batteries
✗ Nickel-cadmium (NiCd) batteries
✗ Nickel-metal hydride (NiMH) batteries
✗ Replacement of older storage installations
✗ Projects already financed from other non-refundable financing programmes for the same eligible costs of the project.
✗ Projects submitted in partnership

Practical note: Accepted technologies mainly include lithium-ion batteries (LFP, NMC), flow batteries (vanadium, zinc-bromine) and other advanced technologies, except those listed above.

ELIGIBLE VS. INELIGIBLE COSTS

The maximum aid intensity is 100% of eligible costs — making this scheme one of the most generous in the energy sector.

However, a number of costs frequently encountered in project development are NOT covered.

The categories of eligible and ineligible costs are detailed in Annex No. 1 to the Order. Below is a summary thereof:

✓ ELIGIBLE Costs	✗ INELIGIBLE Costs
Site preparation	Land acquisition/purchase, relocation/protection of utilities; Environmental protection arrangements and land restoration to initial state
Provision of utilities required for the facility	Studies (site, environmental impact report, other specific studies), supporting documentation, permits, approvals, authorisations; technical expertise; energy performance certification, energy audit, road safety audit;
Construction and installations	Design, consultancy, project management, technical assistance; health and safety coordinator
Assembly of technological and functional equipment and machinery	Financial audit, organisation of procurement procedures
Technological and functional equipment and machinery requiring assembly	Technological and functional equipment and machinery not requiring assembly, transport equipment; purchase of second-hand equipment
Fittings (furniture, appliances)	Taxes, VAT, duties, commissions, loans
Intangible assets	Operating costs, debit interest, fines, penalties, litigation and arbitration costs
Site organisation works and costs	Leasing acquisitions, rentals; purchase of transport vehicles and already constructed buildings; general administration costs
Payment of site supervisors	Publicity, information, costs for training operating personnel, for technological tests and trials; budget margin costs; miscellaneous and unforeseen costs; costs for establishing the implementation reserve for price adjustment.

Important: Additionally, costs for grid connection (connection to the transformer station), depreciation, in-house costs and in-kind contributions are ineligible. These costs must be borne entirely by the beneficiary.

TIMELINE, DURATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

31.12.2030	48 months from the date of granting the aid
Deadline until which the scheme applies	Maximum implementation duration

Selection process — Competitive bidding

Project selection is carried out through a competitive bidding procedure, pursuant to Article 5(i) and Article 20(8) of the scheme. The sole selection criterion is the value of the state aid requested per MWh of installed storage capacity (EUR/MWh): the project with the lowest value receives the maximum score (100 points), while the one with the highest value receives 0 points, with linear decrease for intermediate values (in accordance with the Technical-Economic Evaluation Grid in Annex No. 2 to the scheme).

Selection criterion

Scoring formula: 100 points = lowest EUR/MWh cost; 0 points = highest EUR/MWh cost

Publication of detailed criteria: at least 6 weeks before the submission deadline

Application submission: via the MySMIS 2021 platform

Evaluation stages

Stage	Description
1. Submission	Complete financing application on MySMIS 2021 platform
2. Technical-economic evaluation	Scoring based on EUR/MWh criterion (lowest wins)
3. Compliance verification	Administrative and eligibility verification
4. Contracting	Signing of the financing contract
5. Implementation	Maximum 48 months from granting of aid

Incentive effect principle

⚠ Mandatory

The financing application must be submitted BEFORE the start of execution works.

Obtaining permits, authorisations and conducting studies is NOT considered "start of works”.

Failure to comply with this condition leads to rejection of the application.

Cumulation of aid

Cumulation prohibition: Aid granted under this scheme CANNOT be cumulated with other state aid (including de minimis aid) for the same eligible costs. Any other state aid received for the same costs will be deducted.

RISKS AND PENALTIES

The scheme provides for a rigorous monitoring and sanctions mechanism. Beneficiaries must be fully aware of post-contracting obligations and the consequences of non-compliance.

Risk / Obligation	Consequence
Delay in implementation	Penalty: 0.01% per day of the aid value + NBR interest
Non-compliance with the 48-month deadline	Full recovery of aid + interest
Non-fulfilment of contractual conditions	Full recovery + interest from date of payment
False declarations	Recovery + potential criminal sanctions
Document retention	Mandatory for 10 years from the date of granting
Unauthorised project modifications	Contract termination + recovery

⚠ Recovery mechanism

Non-compliance with any essential condition of the financing contract triggers:

- Full recovery of amounts granted
- Interest calculated from the date of actual payment
- Interest rate: NBR reference rate
- Recovery procedure is mandatory regardless of project stage

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