Joint Call for Research Proposals 2026
Decarbonisation for Development (DfD) Lab, CSIS Indonesia
Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in Trade and Environment, Institute for International Trade, Adelaide University

Powering Industrial Strategies for Climate: From Competition to Cooperation

The DfD Lab, CSIS Indonesia and the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in Trade and Environment (JM CoE) jointly invite research proposals on green industrial policy, trade and climate cooperation. Selected papers receive a research grant, are co-published as working papers by CSIS Indonesia and the JM CoE, and are presented at the inaugural **Adelaide Trade and Climate Forum, 25 to 26 August 2027**.

Background

Industrial policy has returned to the centre of economic statecraft, and it has returned green. The Inflation Reduction Act, the European Green Deal Industrial Plan, China's clean-technology strategy, and resource-based downstreaming across the Global South all pursue two goals at once: building competitive industries and bending the emissions curve. Policies that deliver only one, such as subsidies for carbon-intensive jobs or climate rules that deindustrialise without cutting global emissions, fail this test.

This dual mandate reshapes the classical toolkit. Supply-side incentives become conditional on emissions and technology performance, while demand-side tools such as green procurement and standards carry more weight, since green products compete with fossil incumbents that do not bear their externalities. Governance must discipline the state through milestones, independent review, and sunset clauses, lest green policy decay into protectionism. Yet the framework applies unevenly. Advanced economies run subsidy-heavy strategies, while developing economies, with limited fiscal space, rely on resource endowments, trade measures, and concessional finance, often under rules set elsewhere, as the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) shows.

In response to these challenges, this initiative seeks to advance a rigorous, evidence-based understanding of how industrial strategies can support climate objectives while fostering sustainable and inclusive economic development. Through collaboration between the Decarbonisation for Development (DfD) Lab, CSIS Indonesia, and the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in Trade and Environment at the Institute for International Trade, Adelaide University, the initiative brings together researchers and scholars to examine the evolving relationship between industrial policy, international trade, and climate action.

Under the theme **"Powering Industrial Strategies for Climate: From Competition to Cooperation"**, this call invites contributions that investigate how countries design and implement industrial strategies in response to the opportunities and tensions created by the global green transition. Selected papers will be presented at the **Adelaide Trade and Climate Forum in August 2027**, engaging with an international community of researchers and policymakers.

Aims and Scope

This initiative explores the evolving landscape of green industrial policy and its implications for sustainable development. It provides a framework for examining how countries can harness green industrialisation to achieve domestic economic transformation while strengthening regional and international cooperation. It also highlights sector-specific challenges and opportunities in strategic green industries, examines the role of regional governance and economic cooperation, and considers pathways toward stronger international coordination. Ultimately, it seeks to generate interdisciplinary insights and practical policy recommendations to advance the green transition.

Proposals that engage with the European Union dimension of these questions are particularly welcome: EU instruments such as CBAM, the Green Deal Industrial Plan and the Net-Zero Industry Act; their effects on Indo-Pacific partners; and EU cooperation with Indonesia, Australia, ASEAN and the Pacific. An EU angle is not required.

Themes

We welcome proposals that address, but are not limited to, the following themes.

Subtheme 1: Designing Dual-Objective Green Industrial Policy

This subtheme asks how instruments should be designed, sequenced, and evaluated to build competitive industries and cut emissions, avoiding the twin failures of subsidising carbon-intensive competitiveness or regulating without reducing global emissions. For developing countries, the challenge is ensuring that attracting relocating supply chains also drives long-term upgrading. Comparative assessments of first-generation strategies are especially welcome.

Subtheme 2: Supply-Side Instruments: Finance, Technology, and Inputs

Green industries face a structural cost disadvantage against fossil incumbents. This subtheme examines the instruments that make green investment viable, including risk-reducing finance, workforce development, and access to clean electricity and critical minerals. Advanced economies focus on frontier innovation, while developing countries must mobilise finance, build capabilities, and secure technology transfer. Developing-country perspectives are encouraged.

Subtheme 3: Demand-Side Instruments: Creating Markets for Green Products

Supply-side investment cannot succeed without markets. This subtheme examines how governments create markets through procurement, standards, mandates, and pricing, and how these instruments work under the fiscal, affordability, and political constraints of developing countries, where domestic demand may be limited. It gives particular attention to export markets and compliance with foreign standards as drivers of upgrading.

Subtheme 4: Trade Policy at the Climate-Industry Nexus

Trade policy is the most contested arena of green industrial strategy, where one country's climate instrument is another's market-access barrier. Border carbon adjustments, export restrictions, local content requirements, and subsidy regimes are outpacing multilateral rules and creating asymmetries between rule-makers and rule-takers. We invite analysis of both their design as national tools and their implications for trading partners, along with pathways to reconcile green industrial policy with trade rules.

Subtheme 5: North-South Asymmetries in the Green Transition

Developed economies redirect existing capabilities with deep fiscal resources, whereas developing economies must build capabilities under new climate constraints, without the means to compete in subsidy races, and while complying with rules designed elsewhere. Their energy transition choices also involve trade-offs among climate goals, industrial development, and affordability. This subtheme explores strategic options under these constraints and invites normative work on what differentiated treatment should mean.

Subtheme 6: From Beggar-Thy-Neighbour to Regional Cooperation

Nationally rational strategies can produce incentive bidding wars, duplicated downstreaming that leaves several sub-scale industries instead of one competitive value chain, and standards that protect against neighbours. This subtheme asks how regions can turn these dynamics cooperative through incentive transparency, complementary specialisation, and mutual recognition, and how ambitious national strategies can anchor regional integration.

Subtheme 7: Regional Public Goods and Collective Infrastructure

Some key enablers of green industrialisation cannot be built by any country alone. Cross-border grids relax the grid-carbon constraint on decarbonisation, shared MRV and certification infrastructure lowers compliance costs for smaller economies, and collective diplomacy turns rule-taking into partial rule-shaping. We invite work on the design, financing, sequencing, and governance of such goods.

Subtheme 8: Governance, Accountability, and Multilateral Frameworks

Because green industrial policy directs resources under uncertainty, its legitimacy depends on governance that disciplines the state domestically against capture, regionally against beggar-thy-neighbour behaviour, and multilaterally against erosion of the trade-climate regime. This subtheme examines transition councils, independent review, sunset mechanisms, and plurilateral forms such as climate clubs, as well as safeguards against greenwashed protectionism.

Contributions may be theoretical, empirical, or policy-oriented, and may focus on individual countries, comparative regional experiences, or cross-country analyses. Interdisciplinary approaches combining economics, political economy, international relations, law, public policy, and environmental and development studies are particularly encouraged.

Who Should Apply

- Researchers at all career stages, applying individually or as leaders of teams of up to three co-authors, from universities, think tanks, government, and international organisations.
- Previous research on the topic is an advantage but not mandatory.
- Teams with members from different institutions or organisations are preferred.
- Researchers may submit or co-author several proposals.
- Proposals must be original. The research must not have been published elsewhere or be under consideration for another grant or source of funding.

We especially encourage submissions from women researchers, early career researchers, researchers based in the Pacific Islands and Southeast Asia, and researchers from low- and middle-income countries.

Research Grant and Support

Each selected proposal receives a research grant of **up to EUR 4,000**[1]. Where a paper has more than one author, the grant is shared among the team.

Where a selected proposal aligns with the DfD Lab's work programme, CSIS Indonesia may invite the authors to co-author the working paper based on their proposal with CSIS researchers. Applicants can indicate their interest in the submission form.

The lead author of each selected paper will present at the **Adelaide Trade and Climate Forum**, which will run in a hybrid format, so presenters may attend in person or virtually. Limited funding may be available to support travel and accommodation for those presenting in person, with priority given to early career researchers and those travelling from low- and middle-income countries.

Grantees commit to:

- presenting their paper at the Forum in August 2027, in person or virtually;
- delivering a final paper for co-publication as a CSIS Indonesia and JM CoE working paper.

What to Submit

A proposal of about 1,500 words, plus a CV for each team member, containing:

- paper title and the subtheme(s) it addresses;
- author information for all co-authors: name, affiliation, address, email;
- research objective and questions;
- methodology and data sources;
- indicative timeline with deliverables and work arrangement within the study period (work plan);
- expected output and outcome;
- disclosure of any use of AI tools (name, version, and developer) and how they will be used in the research or writing.

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be assessed by a joint panel of the DfD Lab and the JM CoE against:

- fit with the theme and subthemes;
- originality and rigour of the research question and approach;
- ability to bridge research and policy, with practical recommendations for policymakers;
- clarity of the work plan and outputs, and contribution to a balanced set of papers across countries, regions, and disciplines.

Priority will be given to papers offering original empirical evidence, innovative policy frameworks, or comparative analysis across countries or regions.

[1] Or up to IDR 80,000,000.

Submission and Indicative Timeline

Submit the proposal and CVs as a single PDF through the online form at https://csis.or.id/O/CfP2026 by **30 November 2026, 23:59 Jakarta time (WIB, GMT+7)**, which is **1 December 2026, 03:29 Adelaide time (ACDT, GMT+10:30)**.

Milestone	Date
Call opens	2 November 2026
Proposal submission deadline	30 November 2026
Notification of acceptance and contract	Early January 2027
Draft paper submission	May 2027
Final paper submission	July 2027
Final review	August 2027
Adelaide Trade and Climate Forum (hybrid)	25 to 26 August 2027
Co-publication as working papers	From September 2027
Possible joint edited volume	2028

Contact

Questions about this call should be emailed to climate@csis.or.id, cc desiree.liarifa@csis.or.id, dandy.rafitrandi@csis.or.id and harry.wardana@adelaide.edu.au, with "Powering Industrial Strategies for Climate" in the subject line.

The Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in Trade and Environment is co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Co-funded by the European Union