

WBIF Guidelines for Applicants: TA Round 34 and INV Round 12



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1. Introduction

The European Commission and the Bilateral Donors launched a WBIF call for applications on 29 January 2026 to provide technical assistance and investment co-financing for public sector projects. The call is organised into the following rounds:

- **TA Round 34 for technical assistance grants** to support the preparation of infrastructure projects in the intervention area of Environment and Climate and projects proposed for financing by the **Reform and Growth Facility (RGF) as reflected in the Beneficiaries' respective indicative lists of RGF projects**¹. Funding for this round is provided by the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance III (IPA III) and Bilateral Donor contributions to the European Western Balkans Joint Fund (EWBJF).
- **INV Round 12 for investment grants** to co-finance public sector investment projects in the WBIF's **environment and climate intervention area**. Funding for this round is provided by IPA III and Bilateral Donor contributions to the EWBJF.

The tentative timeline for the call for proposals is shown below.

Event	TA Round 34	INV Round 12
Launch of the call for proposals	29 January 2026	
Pre-notification deadline	20 February 2026	27 February 2026
Submission deadline	6 March 2026 (Phase 1)	2 April 2026
Endorsement deadline	13 March 2026 (Phase 1)	17 April 2026
Screening (until)	2 April 2026 (Phase 1)	8 May 2026
Paris Group	15 April 2026 (Phase 1)	19 May 2026
Assessment (until)	29 May 2026 (Phase 2)	12 June 2026
Paris Group	30 June 2026 (Phase 2)	30 June 2026
(if applicable) 2 nd Assessment (until)	15 July (revised Phase 2) ²	N.A.
Project Financiers' Group	July 2026 (written procedure)	July 2026 (written procedure)
Operational Board	July-August 2026 (written procedure)	July-August 2026 (written procedure)

These guidelines accompany the WBIF call for applications. Their main purpose is to assist beneficiaries and financial institutions in preparing applications for TA Round 34 and INV Round 12. The document outlines the eligibility criteria for project proposals, explains the submission process, and details the information expected by the WBIF Project Financiers' Group in applications.

The guidelines are organised into two chapters: 1) Eligibility provisions and requirements for TA Round 34, including details on the "phased approach" to application submission, and 2) Eligibility provisions for INV Round 12.

¹ In the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who has not yet submitted to the European Commission an indicative list of RGF projects, Bosnia and Herzegovina will need to confirm in section 21.2 of the application form that will submit under this call for applications that the investment in reference will be included in the indicative list of RGF projects that will be submitted to the European Commission.

² Phase 2 Application forms requiring revisions will need to be rediscussed at the subsequent Paris Group and, if positively assessed, at the subsequent Project Financiers' Group and Operational Board deliberations.

The applications must be pre-notified and submitted via the WBIF MIS by National IPA Coordinators. The application form templates for both technical assistance (TA Round 34) and investment grants (INV Round 12) are provided in Annexes 1 and 2, with instructions on required information. The editable application forms are available for download in the WBIF [MIS Library](#) under the “GAF Templates” tab.

To support applicants, screening and assessment grids – reflecting the review process by the WBIF Project Financiers’ Group – are included in Annexes 3 and 4. These tools are designed to help applicants ensure their submissions are complete and meet all necessary criteria.

2. WBIF TA Round 34

This is a call for applications for technical assistance grants to support the preparation of infrastructure projects in the intervention area of **Environment and Climate** and projects for financing by the **Reform and Growth Facility (RGF)** as reflected in the **Beneficiaries' respective indicative lists of RGF projects**³. As such, this is a restricted call.

2.1. Main eligibility criteria

The key priorities of the **Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans (EIP)**, now integrated in the **Global Gateway**, guide the eligibility criteria of the current round. Moreover, to achieve the goals of the [Growth Plan for the Western Balkans](#), special emphasis is placed on sectors that are likely to function as key multipliers for social and economic development: connectivity, including sustainable transport, decarbonisation, energy, green and digital transitions, as well as education and skills development, with a particular focus on youth.

Applications for **public sector TA grant support under the current** round are eligible in the following intervention areas: 1) sustainable transport; 2) clean energy; 3) environment and climate; 4) digital future; and 5) human capital development. More details on the eligibility criteria for each intervention area are provided in sections below.

In addition, with a view to **leveraging private sector finance and expertise** for public investments – in particular when the investment design is complex, the operation of the infrastructure is challenging, or when the fiscal space of the borrower is limited – TA applications for the preparation of investments to be implemented under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) approach are **strongly encouraged** under the current round. As such, relevant applications should foresee an option analysis of the benefit and opportunity to develop the infrastructure through a Public Private Partnership. This requirement does not apply to applications concerning investments at advanced stages of preparation; in these cases, a justification for not conducting an option analysis must be provided in the application form. In all other cases, when the PPP could not be a viable option anyway, a justification should also be provided in the application. Guidance on the potential for PPP is available on the WBIF website in the library (EPEC studies).

2.1.1. Sustainable transport

Rationale

The Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans sets out that significant investment should be directed towards sustainable transport infrastructure in the Western Balkans. Transport-related measures also feature in the New Growth Plan and in the Reform Agendas, contributing to the objective of integrating the Western Balkan economies into the EU Single Market through the so-called Green Lane initiative or measures related to Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) or e-freight.

Investments in transport infrastructure should be future-proof and sustainable (e.g. through proper climate risk assessments and adequate mitigation and adaptation measures) in line with the **Guidelines for the Implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans** embedded in the Economic and Investment Plan: e.g. rehabilitation of the rail network, deployment of intelligent transport systems, multimodal transport solutions and modal shift. These investments should also be aligned with the

³ In the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who has not yet submitted to the European Commission an indicative list of RGF projects, Bosnia and Herzegovina will need to confirm in section 21.2 of the application form that will submit under this call for applications that the investment in reference will be included in the indicative list of RGF projects that will be submitted to the European Commission.

Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy priorities, the “do no significant harm” principle and the Paris Agreements.

Fast, efficient and sustainable transport links are crucial, both within the region and with the neighbouring EU Member States in the railway sector.

In June 2024, the Council of the European Union adopted a revised Regulation that includes a **Rail Freight Corridor for the Western Balkans**. After its adoption, the new Rail Freight Corridor has become an essential tool for coordinated cooperation to improve international freight traffic, and to enhance multimodality in passenger and freight rail transport.

The **Core and Extended Core transport networks**, with a deadline of 2030 and 2040 completion, respectively, should constitute the foundation of the sustainable multimodal transport network, representing the strategically most important nodes and links of the trans-European transport network according to traffic needs. They should stimulate the development of the entire comprehensive network and enable EU action to concentrate on the Trans-European Transport Network components with the highest European added value, in particular cross-border sections, missing links, multimodal connecting points and major bottlenecks.

The Western Balkans region is affected by a changing climate and has already experienced its severe consequences. The **Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy for the Western Balkans** was developed to set common objectives and a list of common measures for making transport greener, sustainable and healthier for citizens.

Progress should be made on both the implementation of technical standards and connectivity reform measures (e.g. aligning/simplifying border crossing procedures, railway reform including unbundling and third-party access, information systems, maintenance schemes, road safety), thus speeding up the completion of the indicative extension of the **Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)** to the Western Balkans and accelerating full alignment with the EU acquis, namely as regards digital and clean energy technologies.

The regional action plans on Transport Facilitation, Rail, Road, Road Safety and Multimodality shall act as frameworks for investments.

Key areas of intervention

TA applications in the transport sector should aim at preparing investments to be later funded by the RGF, as reflected in the Beneficiaries' respective indicative lists of RGF projects³, and must respect the following eligibility criteria:

Subsector	
Railways infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rehabilitation of existing and construction of new resilient and smart transport infrastructure on the TEN-T core and extended core railway network
Road infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rehabilitation of existing and construction of new resilient and smart transport infrastructure on the TEN-T core roads network
Maritime/Inland waterways infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inland waterways TEN-T Core network• Port infrastructure
Intermodality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Terminals/multi-modal hubs
Urban Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rapid urban transit systems

2.1.2. Clean energy

Rationale

The Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans, together with the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, set out that support towards energy transition will be reinforced. Strong emphasis is placed on energy market integration, decarbonisation, clean energy, just transition, increased digitalisation of the system and smart grids, energy efficiency, including modernisation of district heating, and energy security.

Clean Energy also features prominently in the New Growth Plan for the region and in the Reform Agendas of each of the economies. The integration and decarbonisation of energy markets are the main priorities. This will also take into account the need for an equivalent carbon price to the EU Emissions Trading System's carbon price or the application of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) to allow for continued electricity market coupling from 2030 onwards.

In December 2022, the Western Balkans partners made commitments under the Energy Community Treaty concerning the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency and renewable energy targets by 2030. On this basis, they have developed their respective National Energy and Climate Plans setting out the steps to achieve these targets. Investments funded under the Reform and Growth Facility shall be in line with the Western Balkans partners' Energy and Climate Plans, their Nationally Determined Contribution and ambition to reach climate neutrality by 2050. They shall contribute to the mitigation of climate change and to the ability to adapt to its adverse effects, and foster climate resilience. In particular, funding under the Reform and Growth Facility shall promote the transition towards a decarbonised, climate-neutral, climate-resilient and circular economy.

At the same time, there has been progress in the implementation of renewable energy policies in the Western Balkans, and investments in renewable energy (conventional solar and wind power plants) have started to flow in. However, further investments and policy measures in decarbonising energy production and/or consumption shall be key to delivering decarbonisation targets, including being able to avoid potentially negative consequences of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and ensuring a just energy transition. The mobilisation of the private sector would contribute to the nascent industrial clean energy ecosystems and can be a regional economic game changer. Progress should be made on transposing the new Electricity Integration Package within the Energy Community to ensure full market integration of Contracting Parties, which includes the six Western Balkans partners, into the single European electricity market.

Key areas of intervention

TA applications in the energy sector should aim at preparing investments to be later funded by the RGF, as reflected in the Beneficiaries' respective indicative lists of RGF projects³, and must respect the following eligibility criteria:

Subsector	
Electricity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transmission lines contributing to market integration (between Western Balkans partners and/or with EU Member States), sustainability (integration and transmission of renewable energy) and security of supply.• Distribution network upgrade• Digitalisation of the network• Energy storage: battery storage and pumped hydro storage
Renewable energy production	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rehabilitation of hydropower plants• Innovative renewable energy solution projects (if not supported through

Subsector	
	EFSD+ guarantees and proven not to be revenue-generating)
Energy efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy efficiency measures for infrastructure in the education sector (from early childhood education to high-level education) and in the health sector (hospitals and health centres)

2.1.3. Environment and climate

Rationale

The Economic and Investment Plan for Western Balkans, together with the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, set out that significant investment should be directed towards greening the Western Balkans and mainstreaming environmental and climate requirements in other sectors. WBIF support focuses on the implementation of the plan's flagship on waste and wastewater management.

One of the main goals of the Green Agenda is to reduce water pollution and to address water conservation and flood protection across the region. There is a high share of the population in rural areas (30 to 50%) with only basic sanitary facilities and wastewater collection, while urban areas with collection of wastewater via sewer networks discharge mostly untreated wastewater.

Even though there have been improvements in waste management through the adoption of circular economy principles, there is still much progress to be made in the Western Balkans. Support will be provided to upgrade basic infrastructure in line with relevant EU standards in the area of water and sanitation (including investments in drinking water treatment and supply and sewerage systems covering multiple agglomerations with a regional coverage or in the major cities) and pollution prevention measures.

Moving to a circular economy, addressing waste management, recycling, sustainable production, and efficient use of resources also play a significant role in lowering the carbon footprint.

Key areas of intervention

TA applications in the environment sector should aim at preparing investments to be later funded by EU funds (in particular Sector Operational Programmes/National IPA funds or by WBIF investment grants) and must respect the following eligibility criteria:

Subsector	SOP / national IPA	WBIF
Water management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitation of existing and construction of new drinking water and wastewater treatment plants (\leq €15 million (\leq€30 million for Serbia))* River basin management/flood prevention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitation of existing and construction of new drinking water and wastewater treatment plants ($>$ €15 million ($>$ €30 million for Serbia))
Waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitation of existing and construction of new waste management centres (\leq €20 million (\leq€30 million for Serbia))* Closure of non-compliant landfills Equipment* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitation of existing and construction of new waste management centres ($>$ €20 million ($>$ €30 million for Serbia)) Closure of non-compliant landfills, including rehabilitation according to EU standards (only if in association with waste

Subsector	SOP / national IPA	WBIF
		management centres)
Air quality/noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services/ works/ equipment * 	
Nature protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of natural resources, resource protection (deployment of reservoirs, irrigation; green and blue infrastructures; ecosystem restoration and resilience; restoration of carbon rich habitats; water retention)* 	
Industrial pollution/chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services (studies) • Cleaning/remediation of local waste dumpsites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated industrial decarbonisation and depollution solutions

2.1.4. Digital future

Rationale

The Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans calls for the region's digital transition and includes digital infrastructure as one of its ten flagships. Digital transition also features prominently in the New Growth Plan for the region and in the Reform Agendas of each of the economies. Among other reforms, which will be financially supported through the Reform and Growth Facility, the Western Balkan partners are committing to advancing the roll-out of secure and sustainable digital infrastructure in full compliance with the EU's 5G cybersecurity toolbox.

Key areas of intervention

TA applications in the digital sector should aim at preparing investments to be later funded by the RGF, as reflected in the Beneficiaries' respective indicative lists of RGF projects³, and must respect the following eligibility criteria:

Subsector	
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ultra-fast and secure broadband (including 5G) for governments, households, businesses, education and health, connections with remote areas, connection to EU digital backbones. Full alignment with the EU's 5G cybersecurity toolbox and technology neutrality must be ensured. • secure, energy-efficient, trustworthy and AI-ready data centres, edge and cloud infrastructures, as well as linking to EU initiatives on high-performance computers and/or GEANT programme; these efforts must ensure cyber-resilience • Exploring synergies with other connectivity areas, such as transport and energy, in the context of infrastructure sharing • Investments in improving the digitalisation of infrastructures in the fields of education (from early childhood education to high-level education) and health (hospitals and health centres).

2.1.5. Infrastructures for human capital development

Rationale

The Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans places strong emphasis on investments in infrastructure that unleash the potential of human capital development, among others, in the fields of education and skills, research and innovation, which the new Growth Plan for the Western Balkans and the respective national Reform Agendas have fully taken forward.

Key areas of intervention

TA applications in the human capital development sector should aim at preparing investments to be later funded by the RGF, as reflected in the Beneficiaries' respective indicative lists of RGF projects³, and must respect the following eligibility criteria:

Subsector	WBIF
Education & Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure investments necessary for implementation of concrete reforms included in Reform Agenda
Social inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure investments necessary for implementation of concrete reforms included in Reform Agenda
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure investments necessary for implementation of concrete reforms included in Reform Agenda

2.2. Additional eligibility criteria

- The underlying investment projects of technical assistance grants must be endorsed by the Ministry of Finance, unless no financing from the national budget is expected (e.g. projects under the responsibility of a municipality).
- TA applications must support preparatory work for eligible investment projects. For example, without limitation, masterplans, (pre)feasibility studies, cost-benefit analyses, environmental and social impact assessments, comprehensive risk assessments, including disasters and climate change risks and vulnerability, preliminary and detailed designs, targeted capacity building and implementation support (including tender documents preparation, procurement assistance), sector development studies, and general capacity building.
- Activities related to the technical review, check and verification of any project design(s) as per national legislation, other activities specific to the urban planning and/or land ownership (e.g. the preparation of urban plans, documentation for land expropriation, etc.) that fall under the Beneficiary's responsibility as part of its due diligence and control for the project management are not eligible for grant funding.
- Support for overcoming specific obstacles delaying project preparation or implementation may be accepted, provided that for faltering projects, the grant application provides a thorough analysis of the causes and a clear and logical use of the grant to drive their progress.
- For projects with preparatory studies under development (e.g. the feasibility study is under preparation), grant financing for the next stage will not be provided until those studies are completed and the beneficiary and Lead IFI approve their results. Similarly, additional grant financing will not be considered when a grant has already been awarded but not disbursed.
- To ensure efficient use of resources, proposals should reflect the logical sequence of the project cycle and, therefore, should be confined to immediate needs. For example, if a feasibility study is required, assistance for designs and tender documents should not be part of the grant request but rather be applied for in the future if the feasibility study proves positive.
- TA applications for the preparation of investments to be implemented under a PPP approach are

encouraged under the current round. As such, relevant applications should foresee an option analysis of the benefit and opportunity to develop the infrastructure through a Public Private Partnership. This requirement does not apply to applications concerning investments at advanced stages of preparation; in these cases, a justification for not conducting an option analysis must be provided in the application form. In all other cases, when the PPP could not be a viable option anyway, a justification should also be provided in the application. Guidance on the potential for PPP is available on the WBIF website in the library (EPEC studies).

2.3. Maximum co-financing rates for WBIF technical assistance grants

The WBIF grant can finance 100% of the costs for technical assistance.

2.4. Guidelines for phased TA submission and application form

This section provides guidance on the use of the “new phased TA application form”.

2.4.1. General overview

The TA application form is split into 2 phases. The **first phase application form** contains information required to enable a meaningful understanding of the application in line with the policy framework. Once the application passes the first phase, the second phase starts. In this **second phase application form**, applicants must complete additional sections during the assessment phase. DG ENEST will offer targeted capacity-building to a limited number of interested beneficiaries to support them in the preparation of the sections of the Phase 2 application form concerning the Terms of Reference. To be eligible to this support, applicants must express their interest in section 28.1 of the Phase 1 application form. DG ENEST will take a decision on the support to be provided based on the number of expressions of interest received and the available resources.

2.4.2. Terms of Reference

The complete application form will contain the Terms of Reference (ToR), whose content is included in the following sections (some of them are already included in Phase 1 application form).

Section	Title
2	Grant code
7	Beneficiaries
10	Action/Grant Application name
11	Lead IFI
14	Total WBIF grant amount (€)
16	Implementation of TA activities
17	Responsible authority of the Beneficiary
18	Implementing entity(ies)
19.1	Background and context of the Project
19.2	Needs/demand analysis
19.3	Project map
19.4	Project description
19.5	Reference documents
21.1	Alignment with the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans
21.2	Alignment with the Growth Plan and the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western

Section	Title
	Balkans
21.3	Alignment with Green Agenda objectives
21.4	Compliance with adopted national/sectoral/regional strategies
23.1	Description of entities involved
23.2	Organisational set-up
28.2	Detailed scope of work and results for TA grant activities (the Action)
31.2	Detailed planning of TA activities

Following approval by the OB, the MIS will automatically generate the ToR and these will be uploaded to the MIS under the grant attachments. From this point, the ToR are passed on to the EIB for IPF-implemented TA or to the Lead IFI for Joint Fund financed TA.

3. WBIF INV Round 12

This is a call for applications for investment grants to co-finance public sector investment projects in the area of intervention of Environment and Climate under the WBIF. Funding for this round is available through **IPA III** and **Bilateral Donor contributions** to the EWBJF. The latter may support small-scale, high-impact projects in this intervention area.

Applications under the call must address the WBIF Blending Investment Priorities as presented at the 1st Strategic and Operational Board meetings (16 and 17 December 2021) for the environment and climate intervention area.

3.1. Eligibility criteria

Rationale

The key priorities of the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans (EIP), now integrated in the Global Gateway, guide the eligibility criteria of the current round.

The Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans, together with the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, set out that significant investment should be directed towards greening the Western Balkans and mainstreaming environmental and climate requirements in other sectors. WBIF support focuses on implementing the Plan's flagship for waste and wastewater management.

One of the main goals of the Green Agenda is to reduce water pollution and to address water conservation and flood protection across the region. A high share of the population lives in rural areas (30 to 50%), with only basic sanitary facilities and wastewater collection, while urban areas with wastewater collection via sewer networks discharge mostly untreated wastewater.

Although there have been improvements in waste management through the adoption of circular economy principles, much progress remains to be made in the Western Balkans.

Moving to a circular economy, addressing waste management, recycling, sustainable production, and efficient use of resources will play a significant role in lowering the carbon footprint.

Investments to be implemented under a **Public Private Partnership** approach are strongly encouraged under the current round.

Key areas of intervention

- **Water and wastewater treatment:** Support will be provided to upgrade basic infrastructure in line with relevant EU standards in the area of water and sanitation (including investments in drinking water treatment and supply and sewerage systems covering multiple agglomerations with a regional coverage or in the major cities) and pollution prevention measures. Actions that address water pollution and have co-benefits of improving resilience to extreme climate events or contributing to nature conservation and restoration, such as nature-based solutions or green infrastructure, will be prioritised.
- **Circular economy:** Support will be provided to waste management, recycling, sustainable production, and efficient use of resources for the green and climate-neutral economy.

3.2. Delineation of subsectors eligible for support by WBIF public sector investments and by IPA national programmes

Subsector	SOP / national IPA	WBIF
Water management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitation of existing and construction of new drinking water and wastewater treatment plants (\leq €15 million (\leq€30 million for Serbia))* River basin management/flood prevention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitation of existing and construction of new drinking water and wastewater treatment plants ($>$ €15 million ($>$ €30 million for Serbia))
Waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitation of existing and construction of new waste management centres (\leq €20 million (\leq€30 million for Serbia))* Closure of non-compliant landfills Equipment* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitation of existing and construction of new waste management centres ($>$ €20 million ($>$ €30 million for Serbia)) Closure of non-compliant landfills, including rehabilitation according to EU standards (only if in association with waste management centres)
Air quality/noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services/ works/ equipment * 	
Nature protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of natural resources, resource protection (deployment of reservoirs, irrigation; green and blue infrastructures; ecosystem restoration and resilience; restoration of carbon rich habitats; water retention)* 	
Industrial pollution/chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services (studies) Cleaning/remediation of local waste dumpsites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated industrial decarbonisation and depollution solutions

* Priority area(s) for Sector Operational Programmes.

Note: The above table refers only to EU funding. In addition, Bilateral Donors can support small-scale investment projects in all the sectors described above, regardless of the division of subsectors into “SOP/national IPA” and “WBIF”, and without any financial thresholds.

3.3. Maximum co-financing rate for WBIF contribution

The maximum co-financing rate is as follows:

Investment windows	max. co-financing rate (%)
Environment and climate	70

Annex 1: Application Form for TA Round 34

The new phased TA application form is copied below and is split into phases 1 and 2, with explanatory text in grey italics.

Phase 1 (opens up following pre-notification)
Phase 2 (opens up following Paris Group)

IDENTITY OF THE PROJECT

1	Blending facility	WBIF	2	Grant code	<i>This is the grant code and is communicated to the NIPAC at pre-notification. This section is filled in automatically in MIS when the application is submitted.</i>
3	WBIF approval date	<i>This is the date on which the WBIF approves the grant. This section is filled in automatically in MIS.</i>	4	Flagship	<i>[select flagship] Select the relevant investment flagship from the drop-down list. If the Project does not fall under an investment flagship, select "None" from the drop-down list and justify the application in section 21 - Coherence with the EIP, Growth Plan/RGF, EU policies, and adopted national/sectoral/regional strategies.</i>
5	WBIF intervention area	<i>[select intervention area] Select the intervention area addressed by the Project from the drop-down list.</i>	6	CRS-code	<i>The OECD purpose code (CRS code) relevant to the Project must be entered in this section. The list of CRS codes is available at https://development-finance-codelists.oecd.org/Codeslist.aspx. The NIPAC will select the CRS code from the drop-down list available in MIS when it submits the application.</i>
7	Beneficiary(ies)	<i>[select name] Select the name of the Beneficiary from the drop-down list. For regional projects, select all Beneficiaries involved.</i>			
8	Project name	<i>Enter the name of the Project financed by the WBIF grant. Please ensure it is short (maximum 250 characters) and includes the key elements of the Project, such as the infrastructure concerned and location.</i>	9	Project code	<i>This code is specific to the WBIF MIS database and is either selected (for existing WBIF projects) or generated (for new projects) at the pre-notification stage.</i>
10	Action/Grant Application name	<i>Enter the name of the Action, which must include the key elements of the technical assistance (TA) to be funded with the grant per this structure: Project name (as per section 8), followed by the TA activities to be funded by the WBIF grant requested. For example, "Nis Wastewater Treatment Plant: Feasibility Study, ESIA, Preliminary Design", where "Nis Wastewater Treatment Plant" is the name of the Project for</i>			

		<i>which the WBIF grant is requested, while "Feasibility Study, ESIA, Preliminary Design" are the activities to be funded by the WBIF TA grant.</i>
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11	Lead Financial Institution	<i>[select name]</i> <i>Select the name of the Lead Financial Institution (LFI) from the drop-down list.</i>
12	Co-financier(s)	<i>[select name]</i> <i>Select the names of other WBIF financial institutions that contribute financial resources to the Project if relevant: AFD, CEB, EBRD, KfW, or WB.</i>

13	Type of WBIF contribution	Technical Assistance		
14	Total WBIF grant amount (€)	<i>TA amount excl. fee (€)</i>	<i>This is the grant amount without implementation fee for the TA activities funded by the grant. It is the "Grant amount without fees" from section 29.</i>	
		<i>TA fee (€)</i>	<i>This is the implementation fee from section 29.</i>	
		Total WBIF grant amount (€)	<i>This is the "Total WBIF grant amount" from section 29.</i>	
15	Type of WBIF financing source	<i>[select source]</i>	16 Implementation of TA activities	[MM/YYYY - MM/YYYY] <i>This field is filled in automatically in MIS based on the dates provided in subsection 31.1 - Indicative calendar of the Action.</i>

17	Responsible authority of the Beneficiary	<i>Indicate the Beneficiary's authority (e.g. Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Transport, etc.) and its relevant department(s) in charge of the Project (e.g. Department for International Financial Cooperation, Department of Water, etc.) Ensure consistency with section 23 - Institutional framework of the Project.</i>
18	Implementing entity(ies)	<i>Indicate the entity(ies) responsible for the implementation of the Project (e.g. public transport company, public utility company in cooperation with the Municipality, transmission system operator, etc.) and specify the nature of the implementing entity, i.e. whether it is public, mixed (including ownership structure), or private. Note that in section 23 - Institutional framework of the Project, all entities involved must be included, while in the section, only the entity in charge of implementing the Project should be listed.</i>

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

19	Description of the Project <i>The following differentiation is made between the Project and the Action in the grant application form:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project means the overall investment project. ▪ Action means the part of the project for which the Beneficiary seeks grant financing from the WBIF. An Action comprises a set of activities proposed for financing, in whole or in part, by the WBIF grant. <i>This section deals with the investment project for which WBIF TA funding is requested (i.e. the Project), not with the activities proposed to be funded by the WBIF grant (i.e. the Action), which must be addressed in section 28. Provide a clear description of the overall Project. The description should be by component or phase if the Project has more than one component or phase. The description should include the Project's finality and its main components. Ensure that the information is verifiable; therefore, use summary information from the technical documentation developed for the Project (e.g. feasibility study, ESIA study, preliminary/detailed design, etc.) and document the sources. The description may be complemented by maps, explanatory graphs, tables or pictures, which can be included in the application form using the MIS "Pictures" and "Tables" functionalities. This section should provide an overview of the context in which the Project will be developed and a summary</i>
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of the Project's scope, including the main outputs envisaged. The current situation and trends in the sector addressed by the Project should be described. This requires defining the needs within the project area in the relevant sector/thematic area. Therefore, the changes to be achieved through the Project should be clear, as well as who is targeted and who will benefit from the Project's activities. The type of benefits and the final beneficiaries must be quantified as much as possible.

(Indicative max 1,000 words)

- Complete this section in cooperation with the LFI.
- Present concisely and coherently all the information required in subsections 19.1, 19.2 and 19.4.
- Ensure the description focuses on the Project, not the Action for which WBIF grant funding is requested.
- Ensure that all main (direct and indirect) beneficiaries are identified and described (i.e. those who will benefit from the Project's implementation).
- Use and quote official sources of information to justify critical problems/primary deficiencies (see subsection 19.5).
- Ensure that a map of the Project's location is included in subsection 19.3.
- Avoid using jargon and acronyms.

19.1 Background and context of the Project

Provide a short description of the Project's background, which should include at least an overview of the current situation and trends in the sector the Project addresses. What is needed? How is it justified? Where does the project idea originate from? What are the market failures or suboptimal investment situations which will be addressed, which may be proven to be financially viable but do not give rise to sufficient funding from market sources? Where relevant, describe the avoidance of the potential crowding out of other sources of finance.

Market failure is traditionally defined as a situation in which the distribution of goods and services is inefficient, whereby individual incentives for rational behaviour do not lead to rational outcomes for the group. It is, therefore, a disequilibrium state in which the rational behaviour of the individual does not lead to a rational behaviour for the group. In these situations, donors can support the beneficiary government in intervening to provide public goods and in handling both positive and negative externalities of free market economic activities.

Public goods are defined by two distinct aspects: non-excludability and non-rivalrous consumption. "Non-excludability" means that people cannot be excluded from their fruition, while "non-rivalrous" consumption means that the consumption of a good by one person does not reduce the amount available for others. Public goods such as infrastructures, non-toll roads, municipal sewage systems, and energy-efficient public buildings are examples of public goods, along with many others, including well-educated youth. Externalities occur whenever a transaction has a spillover of benefits (positive) or costs (negative) to parties not involved in the original transaction. Thus, a private company's investment in renewable energy facilities has a positive spillover for the general population in terms of air quality, while a chemical plant's continued reliance on old technology has a negative spillover effect due to the pollutants it releases into the environment, which could be avoided if the company were to invest in renewing its equipment.

While making the argument that the proposed action intends to create public goods or manage positive and negative externalities, thus addressing a market failure or a suboptimal investment situation, bear in mind that the European Commission remains an economic actor managing scarce resources in pursuit of its policy priorities. It is, therefore, important that you carefully qualify and quantify the public goods and externalities that the action intends to create.

Describe any other relevant socio-economic implications of the Project, e.g. relevant information on the social and/or market impact that the Project, if implemented, will have, for instance, a significant and sudden rise in utility tariffs, which may be necessary for the sustainability of the sector and of the Project, but which may have important social consequences.

Describe what can be taken as reference programmes or projects in the beneficiary economy/region/sector (e.g. similar programmes carried out in the sector of the Project), what are the defining benchmarks of these programmes/projects, and what are the main lessons learnt.

Explain the involvement of the private sector if relevant.

Maximum length: 3000 characters.

19.2 Needs/demand analysis

<p><i>For early-stage projects (pre-feasibility study, feasibility study, ESIA), please provide one paragraph on the expected needs / demand the Project is expected to address.</i></p> <p><i>For more advanced-stage projects (PD, Design, etc.), please use quantitative (if available) and qualitative data, and describe the problems (including gaps, shortcomings, or deficiencies) the Project addresses to demonstrate <u>why the Project is needed</u>. It is paramount to summarise critical infrastructure deficiencies and needs that the Project (or project component/phase) will address and bring to EU standards.</i></p> <p><i>Provide a summary of the demand analysis, including the predicted demand growth rate, in line with the results of the Cost-Benefit Analysis (if available). Minimum information required: (i) assumptions and baseline (e.g. traffic in the past, future traffic without the project); (ii) projections and methodology used for selected options (if applicable); (iii) supply-side aspects, including analysis of existing and expected infrastructure developments; and (iv) network effect (if any). Use and document sources to justify the critical issues the Project targets and the demand analysis. Avoid using jargon and acronyms.</i></p>	
19.3	Project map
<p><i>Include a map that clearly shows the project area and its context to help understand the location of the Project's various facilities. The map should be easy to read, high-quality, preferably in colour, and include a clear legend.</i></p>	
19.4	Description of the Project
<p><i>Please do not repeat information from 19.1. This description must be structured, concise and focused on crucial aspects: main characteristics (technical specifications) and components and/or phases of the Project (if it has more than one component or phase), justification of the Project's scope and size in the context of the demand forecasted, the rationale for options selected concerning climate change and natural disasters risk assessment conducted (as applicable), primary beneficiaries of the Project (e.g. target population served). Indicate cross-border aspects and impacts (if any).</i></p> <p><i>If the Project has several phases or components, present those already completed or currently under implementation, along with the subsequent phases and/or components, in chronological order.</i></p> <p><i>Briefly describe and quantify the beneficiaries of the Project as much as possible, including any vulnerable, disadvantaged, disabled, and gender-sensitive groups.</i></p> <p><i>Maximum length: 3000 characters.</i></p>	
19.5	Reference documents
<p><i>List all documents used in drafting section 19 (e.g. studies, statistics, strategies, action plan, etc.). Indicate the document title, author, issue date, and URL if available online.</i></p>	

20 Indicative project status and planning

Outline the Project’s current stage and the envisaged timeline. Include the duration, status, and information about completed, ongoing, and future activities. Indicate the last technical documentation completed, briefly comment on any outstanding or ongoing activities, and specify the expected completion date per the instructions below.

The most common activities are pre-listed. Where relevant, add activities to the list. In case of activities that are not relevant, state ‘n/a’.

The following key aspects should be covered:

- **Technical:** status of/planning for the preparation of the masterplan, pre-feasibility study, feasibility study and cost-benefit analysis, environmental and social impact assessment, preliminary and detailed designs, tender documents, etc.;
- **Administrative:** status of/planning for urban planning, environmental permit, land availability, construction permit, launch of procurement, etc.;
- **Financial:** status of/planning for loan agreement(s) with the LFI and other IFIs financing the Project (e.g. estimated, under negotiation, signed, etc.), additional grants, allocation from the national budget, etc.

The estimated duration of each activity and the overall period must be realistic, and all the factors that may affect the implementation timetable must be considered. It is recommended to consider the following planning principles:

- Activities must follow the sequential order of the Project’s development.
- Sequential activities should not overlap.
- The duration of procedures (e.g. review, public consultations, and permitting) should align with the periods defined in applicable regulations.
- The estimated duration of each activity must include a reserve and should not be calculated as the shortest (theoretical) possible duration.
- The impact of foreseeable periods when the Project will be on hold.
- The time when institutions involved operate under a different regime (e.g. vacations, public holidays, etc.) or target groups are engaged in other activities (e.g. election campaign, intensive activity season in agriculture, etc.) should be considered.
- Key stages in the development of the Project should be considered, e.g. securing internal approvals for the Project, securing funding, securing ownership/control of sites, planning permissions, completion of design works, procurement launch, appointment of contractors, start of works on site, construction completion, handover and official opening.
 - Complete this section in cooperation with the LFI.
 - Ensure that the current stage of the Project reflects its status, e.g. previous stages/phases of the Project are completed, and all related conclusions are approved.
 - Planned activities are logically sequenced and can realistically be implemented within the estimated period. Each activity is designed to be implemented within a suitable period. Where possible, activities are executed (partly) in parallel, e.g. tender documents preparation and procurement pre-qualification.
 - Ensure consistency with sections 19 and 31.

Note:

(a) If already complete, provide the exact date; if only planned, indicate at least the month and year.

(b) Select one of the following status options in the table:

- Completed (C)
- Work in progress (WIP)
- Not started (NS)
- Not applicable (N/A).

(c) Describe the current stage and the planning for each activity following the instructions included in the table. Additional activities specific to the Project can be added as separate entries (individual rows) in the table.

Activity	Duration ^(a)		Status ^(b)	Comments ^(c)
	Start date [MM/YYYY]	Completion date [MM/YYYY]		
Masterplan and other relevant spatial planning documents	[insert date]	[insert date]	[select status]	Short description of the status, results, main conclusions, outstanding issues and/or conditions. Include the title, author and issue date.

Definition of the investment project	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[select status]</i>	Describe how the Project is a priority for the national authority, e.g. the Project's position and scoring in the SPP. Justify the application if the Project is not ranked or has a low SPP score.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (if applicable)	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[select status]</i>	Short description of the status, results, main conclusions, outstanding issues and/or conditions. Include the title, author and issue date if completed.
Pre-feasibility Study	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[select status]</i>	As above
Conceptual Design	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[select status]</i>	As above
Feasibility Study (including Cost-Benefit Analysis)	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[select status]</i>	As above
Environmental and Social Impact Assessment	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[select status]</i>	Short description of the status, milestones, and decisions stemming from the ESIA procedure leading to development consent (e.g. ESIA screening decision, environmental consent decision). Indicate if the ESIA Study meets the applicable national, EU and LFI requirements. Start date: outset of the application for environmental consent. Completion date: end of the ESIA procedure, including appeals and final decision.
Preliminary Design	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[select status]</i>	Short description of the status, results/main conclusions, outstanding issues and/or conditions. Include title, author and issue date if completed.
Land ownership	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[select status]</i>	Short description of the legal ownership of the project site(s) and the land for the new investments, land use planning decision(s) concerning the project sites(s), significant risks of delay and pending decisions on land purchase (e.g. expropriations). Land availability is critical for infrastructure development; historically, it has delayed many investment projects. During the design phase, the land's availability must be fully acknowledged, and all related issues must be identified, including estimation of acquisition costs and time required for expropriation procedures (if any). It is common and good practice to consider a project mature for co-financing only if the land is already acquired and available, because delays in the acquisition plan can be significant and will set back the overall construction period. Such a

					situation can be avoided only if the land acquisition programme is significantly advanced or the government has committed to providing unencumbered land.
Detailed Design	[insert date]	[insert date]	[select status]		Short description of the status, results/main conclusions, outstanding issues and/or conditions. Include title, author and issue date if completed.
Construction and other statutory permits	[insert date]	[insert date]	[select status]		Short description of the status, development consent decision(s) - i.e. construction permit - or expected decisions, and renewals/updates of authorisations/approvals. If authorisations have not yet been issued, indicate the estimated completion timeframe.
Loan(s) negotiation and signing	[insert date]	[insert date]	[select status]		Short description of the status of loan agreements with the IFIs financing the Project, e.g. estimated, under negotiation, terms agreed, signed, etc.
Preparation of tender dossier(s)	[insert date]	[insert date]	[select status]		Short description of the status and construction contract type (e.g. FIDIC Pink/Red Book, FIDIC Yellow Book, etc.
Procurement for works (per phase/component)	[insert date]	[insert date]	[select status]		Short description of the status, potential delays (e.g. appeals, retendering), contract(s) signature, and type of contract (e.g. FIDIC Red/Pink Book or Yellow Book). If the Project has more than one component and/or phase, describe the status of procurement procedures for each component and/or phase.
Construction of works (per phase/component)	[insert date]	[insert date]	[select status]		Short description of the status. If the Project is divided into phases or components, present each phase and/or component separately. If the Project has already started, indicate the current status of implementation for each phase and/or component, and describe the executed works and the percentage completed.

21	<p>Coherence with the EIP, Growth Plan/RGF, EU policies, and adopted national/sectoral/regional strategies</p> <p>Consider the following when filling in the sections below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the Project addresses the WBIF blending investment priorities, policy objectives and investment flagships of the EIP. • Ensure that the strategic justification of the Project is reliable and relevant. • Demonstrate the Project's compliance with relevant national legislation, EU acquis and policies and other donors' strategies. • Ensure that the Project considers any special needs and responds to challenges related to any forms of discrimination and environmental impact. • Ensure correlation between the information included in the SSP and the grant application form (e.g. project title, total project cost).
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21.1	Alignment with the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans
<p>If a Project is not a “Flagship (Section 4)”, please confirm if the Project is nevertheless aligned with any of the following EIP priority area(s):[delete the options which are not relevant] “Transport”, “Energy”, “Environment and climate resilience”, “Digital”, “Economic development (incl. private sector, trade and macroeconomic support)”, “Human Development (incl. human capital and youth)”, “Health resilience”, “Migration and Mobility”, “Agriculture, food security and rural development”, “Rule of law, governance and Public administration reform”, “Other”, “Not applicable”.</p> <p>Briefly justify, if applicable, how the Project addresses the WBIF intervention areas, policy objectives and investment flagships of the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans. If not applicable, briefly describe why it would still be justified to support the Project with a WBIF TA grant. [maximum length 700 characters].</p>	
21.2	Alignment with the Growth Plan and the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans
<p>For applications to prepare infrastructure projects in the intervention area of Environment and Climate: Indicate if and briefly explain how the Project is aligned with the objectives of the Growth Plan and the Reform and Growth Facility,</p> <p>For applications to prepare RGF infrastructure projects: (1) Confirm that the Project is included in the indicative list of priority investments under the RGF(in the case of an application submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina, confirm that the investment Project in reference will be included in the indicative list of RGF projects that will be submitted to the European Commission). (2) Briefly justify how the Project addresses the objectives of the Growth Plan and the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans. [maximum length 700 characters].</p>	
21.3	Alignment with Green Agenda objectives
<p>The Project is aligned with the following pillars: [delete the options which are not relevant] (1) climate action, including decarbonisation, energy and mobility, (2) circular economy, addressing in particular waste, recycling, sustainable production and efficient use of resources, (3) biodiversity, aiming to protect and restore the natural wealth of the region, (4) fighting pollution of air, water and soil, (5) sustainable food systems and rural areas, “Not applicable”.</p> <p>Briefly justify how the Project addresses the applicable Green Agenda pillar(s). If none are applicable, please describe briefly why it would still be justified to support the Project with a WBIF TA grant. [maximum length 700 characters]</p>	
21.4	Compliance with adopted national/sectoral/regional strategies
<p>The Project is compliant with the following adopted national/sectoral/regional strategies: [list all relevant strategies, these could e.g. include]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the main national/regional policies for the concerned sector or thematic area (including gender equality strategies or action plans), consistency with the national/regional development strategy, sector strategy, action plan and with the country’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), National Energy and Climate Plan, or National Adaptation Plan (NAP). • The Project’s position in the Single Project Pipeline (SPP). • The Project’s priority from the point of view of national and regional institutions (e.g., the Transport Community, the Energy Community, and similar bodies). • Coordination/complementarity with related projects (financed by WBIF, national IPA, or other donors/financiers).] <p>Briefly justify how the Project addresses the adopted national/sectoral/regional strategies. [maximum length 700 characters].</p>	

22	<p>Consultations before submission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIC • IFIs • EU Delegation(s)/Office • Donors • Regional/international organisations • Other stakeholders 	<p>Consultations took place with the following stakeholders [Indicate “Yes” or “No” after each option and date of consultation]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Investment Committee (NIC) (or equivalent body): Yes/No; meeting(s) took place on DD/MM/YY. • LFI and co-financiers: Yes/No; meeting(s) took place on DD/MM/YY. • EU Delegation(s): Yes/No; meeting(s) took place on DD/MM/YY. • Geographical unit(s) of DG NEAR: Yes/No; meeting(s) took place on DD/MM/YY. • Other donors: Yes/No; meeting(s) took place on DD/MM/YY. • International and regional organisations: Yes/No; meeting(s) took place on DD/MM/YY. • Other relevant stakeholders (e.g. civil society organisations: Yes/No; meeting(s) took place on DD/MM/YY. <p>From consultations, it can be concluded that: [add main conclusions]</p>
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23	Institutional framework of the Project
23.1	Description of entities involved
	<p>Present the list of entities involved in the implementation of the project, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiary(ies) authority(ies) (responsible Ministry(ies) and specific department(s)): please indicate • Entity that is/will be the beneficiary of the construction permit(s) for the Project: please indicate • Implementing agency (or equivalent): please indicate • Project Management Unit (PMU)/Project Implementation Unit (PIU) or equivalent: please indicate • In case of involvement of a privately-owned company, indicate the contractual structure (e.g. concession, private-public partnerships). • Other entities.
23.2	Organisational set-up
	<p>This section should provide a comprehensive account of the organisational structure for implementing the Project and the Action, especially for the Action. It must also clearly present how the activities proposed for WBIF grant funding will be managed, which institutions will provide the required input and support, and which institutions will monitor and approve deliverables.</p> <p>Describe the role (tasks, responsibilities, relations between the different bodies) of the LFI (local/regional offices, sector manager in the Beneficiary), the co-financiers and other entities involved (institutions/authorities of the Beneficiary, implementing entity(ies), other donors, etc.) to demonstrate the existing capacity for implementing the Project and the Action effectively.</p> <p>Clarify whether the Project involves creating an implementation unit (e.g., a Project Implementation Unit (PIU)) and describe its setup, role, and responsibilities.</p> <p>Indicate if the beneficiary/PIU can define the investment plan, procure and implement the Project, or if additional technical assistance is needed.</p> <p>Provide a brief description of in-country coordination arrangements, including with the EU Delegations/Office.</p> <p>If relevant, provide a comprehensive description of the organisational structure for operating the investment project. Include existing institutional structure (e.g. ownership of infrastructures, contractual obligations to the new infrastructure, the evolution of tariffs, etc.)</p> <p>Indicate whether the WBIF contribution will be pooled in a joint Project account with funds from the LFI and other co-financing institutions or whether the WBIF grant will be kept in a separate account.</p> <p>Describe the flow of the WBIF contribution to involved entities down to the final beneficiaries/recipients. Add a chart illustrating the Project's institutional framework.</p> <p>[This section will be included in the ToR for the TA assignment; please ensure the information provided is exhaustive and complete.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete this section in cooperation with the LFI. • Clearly define the specific roles of the institutions involved in the Project. • Ensure the institutional aspects of the Project's implementation are duly described. • Include a chart illustrating the institutional framework of the Project.

24	Project budget and financing plan
	<p>For <u>early-stage projects</u> (pre-feasibility study, feasibility study), this information can be kept brief with regard to the <u>Project Budget</u>. For example, for pre-feasibility study applications, cost breakdowns can be limited to the main items; for the other cost components, provide best estimates [if data are unavailable, "not available" will become an option in MIS].</p> <p>For <u>more advanced stage projects</u>, this section should provide the <u>Project Budget</u> (cost breakdown structure) and <u>Financing Sources</u> (sources and corresponding contributions). Include the main cost components of the Project, their description (related activities), and the corresponding amount in the budget matched against sources of funds and their contributions in the financing plan. The costs should not include VAT.</p> <p>The prefilled cost components listed in the grant application form are indicative; their final composition is left to the applicant's appreciation. The budget should provide a detailed indication of the Project's main costs and budget resources.</p> <p>The costs for works and supplies without contingencies must be listed separately from those for TA for project preparation and implementation. Costs associated with ensuring EU visibility are eligible and can be budgeted. However, rather than being included in a standalone visibility line, visibility costs should be factored into the budget under the relevant activity to which they relate. The budget can also include contingencies, subject to justification and assessment by the relevant donor. If the Project has more than one component/phase, the</p>

costs must be presented by project component and/or phase (i.e. in individual rows as in the table below). The financing plan should contain the actors (i.e. the sources of funds) that provide financing to the Project, the amount of their contribution and the cost components financed by each contribution: WBIF, LFI, co-financiers, Beneficiary's contribution (national contribution), EU national IPA, other private (e.g. commercial banks) and public financiers (e.g. other donors). Please indicate the type of contributions of each source of funds: investment grant, technical assistance grant, loan, guarantee, equity, interest rate subsidies, or other. Create separate entries (i.e. individual rows in the table) for each source and type of funds (e.g. loan, grant), and differentiate between sovereign and non-sovereign loans and private sector finance.

The fields for sums and percentages are filled in automatically in MIS. The "Total project cost" and "Total financing available" must be identical to apply.

For infrastructure projects, the feasibility study and preliminary design usually account for about 1–2% of the estimated investment costs (i.e., works, supplies, and contingencies), while the detailed design (with final cost estimates and tender documents) accounts for around 4–5% of the estimated investment costs. Construction supervision adds another 4–5% to the estimated investment.

While it is understood that the figures provided in this section are indicative, the applicant should make every effort to ensure that the amounts reflect the expected amounts involved in the Project as closely as possible.

As a rule, the following costs are **not eligible for WBIF co-financing**:

- Expenditure incurred prior to the signature of the relevant Contribution Arrangement;
- Expenditure ineligible under national rules;
- Cost of purchase of land or buildings;
Planning/design (permits) fees;
- Technical review, check and verification of project design(s) as per national legislation and other activities specific to urban planning and land ownership, e.g. preparation of urban plans and documentation for land expropriation;
- Communication costs⁴;
- Debts and debt service charges;
- Any duties, taxes and charges, including but not limited to value-added tax (VAT), that are recoverable/deductible;
- Fines, financial penalties, and litigation expenses;
- Second-hand equipment;
- Bank charges, cost of guarantees and similar charges;
- Contributions in kind.
 - Complete this section in cooperation with the LFI.
 - Include all cost components of the Project in the budget;
 - Present the costs by component and/or phase of the Project in the budget;
 - Duly budget all cost components and keep within thresholds;
 - Ensure that national sources have been secured to cover all non-eligible costs required for timely completion of the technical documentation (e.g. planning/design (permits) fees, the cost for project design review/checks/verification by the revision committee, etc.);
 - Match the cost components with the sources of funds in the financing plan.

Indicative total project budget (cost breakdown)

Cost component number	Cost component description	Total costs (€) (A)	Non-eligible costs (€ ^(a)) (B)	Eligible costs (€ ^(a)) (C)=(A)-(B)
1	Planning/design (permits) fees	[insert amount]	[insert amount]	[filled automatically in MIS]
2	Land purchase	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]
3	Technical assistance for project preparation (e.g. masterplan, pre-feasibility study, feasibility study, environmental and social impact assessment, detailed design, tender documents, procurement procedures)	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]

⁴ Exceptionally, within the context of EU External Actions and with prior agreement of the EU, communication activities for specific projects/programmes may be funded as part of the action, if duly justified for the Action.

4	Technical assistance for project implementation (e.g. supervision of works, project management)	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]
5	Works (Building & construction) (b)	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]
5.1.	Works – Component/Phase 1	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]
5.2.	Works – Component/ Phase 2	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]
5.n	Works – Component/ Phase n	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]
6	Supply (Plant & machinery) (b)	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]
6.1.	Supply – Component/Phase 1	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]
6.2.	Supply – Component/Phase 2	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]
6.n	Supply – Component/Phase n	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]
7	Contingencies (c)	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]
8	Other (e.g. project design review/ verification by review committee)(d)	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]
Total Project Costs		[filled in automatically in MIS]	[filled in automatically in MIS]	[filled in automatically in MIS]
Financing plan				
Sources of funds	Cost component(s) financed	Amount (€)	% / total	Remarks (i.e. Code/ Ref. of financing)
National contribution	[insert the number of cost component(s) financed]	[insert amount]	[filled in automatically in MIS]	[indicate the budget in which the Project is included]
IFI Loan 1 [insert IFI name]	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]	[indicate if the loan is sovereign or non-sovereign and its status, e.g. estimated, terms agreed upon, signed, etc.]
IFI Loan 2 [insert IFI name]	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]
Grant amount requested without fees(e) [insert the code of the requested WBIF TA grant]	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]	[current grant request]
Other WBIF grant(s) (f) [insert grant code]	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]	[code/reference number of the financing agreement, financed activities]
Other grants(f) [insert donor name]	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]
Other sources(f) [insert source name]	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]
...
Total Financing available		[filled in automatically in MIS]	[filled automatically in MIS]	

(a) Eligible and non-eligible cost categories for WBIF co-financing are listed above.

(b) Excluding contingencies. If the project has more than one component or phase, the costs for works and supplies must be broken down by component or phase.

(c) The need for contingency must be duly justified. The amount should be taken from the technical documentation developed for the Project and should be at most 10% of the costs for works and supplies net of contingencies. The utilisation of contingency funds during the implementation of the Action needs to be pre-authorized by the European Commission and can also be used to cover other eligible costs, such as negative interest, in accordance with the General conditions and bilateral implementation agreements, if applicable.

(d) Costs not included under cost components 1-7 should be listed here, e.g. project design review/check/verification

by the revision committee. Technical review, check and verification of project design(s) as per the national legislation and other activities specific to urban planning and/or land ownership (e.g. preparation of urban plans, documentation for land expropriation, etc.) fall under the Beneficiary's responsibility for due diligence and control for project management. These costs are not eligible for WBIF grant support.

(e) Must be identical to the "Grant amount without fees" (i.e. grant without implementation fee) from section 29 - WBIF grant amount calculation and justification.

(f) Other WBIF grants must be listed as separate entries (i.e. in individual rows) by code. Grants from other donors and funds from other sources must be presented as separate entries (i.e. in individual rows) by donor and source.

25	Project sustainability	
	<i>This section is not required for TA applications for pre-feasibility study, feasibility study and ESIA. [in this case, please add "Not applicable"]</i>	
	<i>Complete this section in cooperation with the LFI. Describe under which conditions the Project will be sustainable when the grant support expires. Describe any incentives that could be necessary to enhance the sustainability of the Project. Refer to how the Project leads to investment and whether its results can be replicated in other sectors or geographical areas.</i>	
	<i>Describe the Project's sustainability in relation to its economic and financial viability and environmental, social and institutional features.</i>	
	<p><i>Ensure that this section addresses the following sustainability aspects:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The economic viability of the Project is confirmed with reasonable certainty, i.e. the net benefits are expected to be positive, there are no better ways of achieving the Project's purpose, and the public financial resources used for the Project are unlikely to be employed better elsewhere.</i> • <i>The Project proves to be accessible, i.e. all financing sources are secured, and it will be financially and fiscally sustainable once in operation.</i> • <i>Environmental and social impacts are acceptable, or if negative impacts are foreseen, appropriate mitigation measures are proposed.</i> • <i>Satisfactory project management arrangements will be put in place to deliver the Project to specifications on time and within budget.</i> • <i>Organisational arrangements for the operation of the Project will be adequate for the sustainable delivery of the proposed services.</i> 	
	Economic/ Financial viability	<i>Does the Project guarantee an acceptable economic (and financial, where applicable) return level? Describe future revenue flows expected from the Project, operation and maintenance costs and their expected sources of finance. → The Project's economic viability is confirmed with reasonable certainty (i.e. net benefits are expected to be positive; there are no better ways of achieving the Project's purpose; the public financial resources used for the Project are unlikely to be better employed elsewhere).</i>
Environmental aspects	<i>Has the Project considered the environmental implications and taken measures to avoid or mitigate adverse environmental impacts throughout its life? Has a public consultation process taken place? → Environmental and social impacts are acceptable, or where negative impacts are foreseen, appropriate mitigation measures are proposed.</i>	
Social aspects	<i>Has the Project incorporated mechanisms to ensure equitable access and the continuous distribution of its benefits? Describe the affordability approach if the Project will generate revenue (e.g., through tariffs, etc.). → The Project proves to be accessible, meaning that all financing sources are secured; the Project will be financially and fiscally sustainable once in operation.</i>	
Institutional aspects	<i>Has the Project received the necessary support (both budgetary and institutional) to maintain and operate the facilities over their lifetime? → Satisfactory project management arrangements will be put in place to deliver the Project to specifications, on time and within budget; organisational arrangements for the operation of the Project will allow for sustainable delivery of the proposed services.</i>	

26	Risk assessment
<i>This section is not required for TA applications for pre-feasibility study, feasibility study and ESIA. [in this case, please add "Not applicable"]</i>	
<i>Complete this section in cooperation with the LFI. The project promoters should understand the project implementation risks from the outset (e.g. potential changes to project planning, delays in delivery due to external factors, difficulties in decision-making, the need for additional expertise, etc.). The applicants must provide an assessment of the main potential risks to the successful delivery of the Project.</i>	
<i>Identify the Project-related risks and how these risks will be mitigated. Assess how seriously the identified risks</i>	

can influence the Project: **high (H), medium (M) or low (L)**. Keep in mind that:

- Risks are factors that might hinder the achievement of the desired outcomes and are out of the promoter's sphere of control.
- Refer to any impact assessment carried out, including ESIA (if applicable), climate risk and vulnerability assessment, and recommended mitigation measures. If such assessments have not yet been completed but are required, please indicate them and why.
- Indicate the applicable environmental and social standards/safeguards and provide the URL link to where these can be found.

Address the following risk categories:

- Political risks: including but not limited to the gap between the legislation and/or standards of the Beneficiary and the EU, pace of convergence, and policy and administration structure changes.
- Economic risks: describe how macroeconomic conditions or policy changes may affect the Project, energy poverty, etc.
- Financial risks (this should be linked to both the financing plan and the entities involved in the implementation of the project as detailed in sections 24 and 23): The description should focus on the following elements: lack of funds for co-financing; improper handling of financing requests; payment delays; credit and currency risk of the beneficiaries; risks linked to partner financial institutions (intermediaries); the risk-sharing operations.
- Social risks, including gender equality and access to education, the risk of creating barriers to the participation of some groups, public opposition, affordability issues, discriminatory reasons, evictions, etc.
- Environmental risks, including climate change and biodiversity loss, air pollution, and environmental injustice towards minority/vulnerable groups. This section must indicate the applicable environmental and social standards and safeguards that will be applied.
- Implementation risks, including (i) Planning risks (e.g. the implementation of the Project fails to adhere to the terms of the planning permission or the detailed planning cannot be obtained, or if obtained, can only be implemented at higher costs than initially budgeted; (ii) Technical/design risks (e.g. the quality of the project designs/site investigations is likely to impact on the likelihood of unforeseen problems occurring; the use of non-optimal/obsolete technologies leads to substandard services, etc.); (iii) Procurement risks (e.g. delay in procurement procedures, possible re-tendering, appeals, contractual disputes, etc.); and, (iv) Construction risks (e.g. site unavailability, the construction of physical assets is not completed on time, budget and specification, etc.); v) Risks related to project outputs not leading to intended outcomes and impact.
- Operation risks: The risk that operating costs vary from the budget, performance standards slip, or services cannot be provided; the demand for a service does not match levels planned, projected or assumed levels; etc.
- Human rights risks
- Other risks: Risks that do not fit in the above classification should be described in this subsection (e.g. force majeure, adverse publicity on the construction or operation of the new infrastructure, etc.)

(Indicative max 500 words)

Type of risk	Description	Risk likelihood	Risk impact	Mitigation measure(s)
Political		[select likelihood]	[select impact]	
Economic		[select likelihood]	[select impact]	
Financial		[select likelihood]	[select impact]	
Social		[select likelihood]	[select impact]	
Environmental		[select likelihood]	[select impact]	
Implementation		[select likelihood]	[select impact]	
Operation		[select likelihood]	[select impact]	
Human rights		[select likelihood]	[select impact]	
Other		[select likelihood]	[select impact]	

27	Addressing climate mitigation and adaptation	<p><i>This section is not required for TA applications for pre-feasibility study, feasibility study and ESIA [in this case, please add “not applicable”]</i></p> <p><i>For advanced stage projects, please complete this section in cooperation with the LFI; the LFI assesses climate finance contributions (mitigation and adaptation). Address the Project’s potential contribution to GHG emissions reduction and/or climate</i></p>
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		<p><i>adaptation, climate risk assessments conducted, and considerations and measures to improve the Project’s resilience to current and future climate risks. Elaborate on the Project’s alignment with the Paris Agreement and the Beneficiary’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). Include project-specific climate markers (primary/secondary dimension, reduced emissions /carbon footprint).</i></p> <p><i>Describe the climate finance components of the Project (if any) for adaptation and/or mitigation. The Rio Markers methodology should be used to determine whether climate change is the principal objective, one of the objectives (significant), or not an objective of the Project. Please consult the OECD guidelines for identifying the Rio markers.⁵ Based on its methodology, the LFI may propose a specific percentage of the project budget as a climate change contribution.</i></p> <p><i>The information for this section must be adapted to the sector and the maturity of the Project (e.g. pre-feasibility, feasibility study, detailed design, supervision of works, etc.)</i></p>			
Rio Markers		Mitigation		Adaptation	
		Project [M€]	WBIF co-financing grant	Project [M€]	WBIF co-financing grant
RM0 (no objectives)			□		□
RM1 (significant objective)			□		□
RM2 (the principal objective)			□		□

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

28	Scope of work and results for TA grant activities (the Action)			
28.1	Summary of the scope of work and results for TA grant activities (the Action)	<p><i>Provide a brief description of the TA activities foreseen to be financed by the WBIF grant request and the deliverables. Summarise the content of the deliverables and describe their purpose. Describe the existing project documentation that provides the starting point for the foreseen TA activities, and to what extent the findings in these documents can be followed or need to be revisited.</i></p> <p><i>Please note the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The justification of the Action’s necessity must closely relate to fulfilling the eligibility criteria. Technical review, check and verification of project design(s) as per national legislation and/or other activities specific to urban planning and/or land ownership (e.g. preparation of Urban Plan(s), documentation for land expropriation, etc.) are not eligible. These fall under the Beneficiary’s responsibility as part of its due diligence and project management controls.</i> <i>All activities financed by the grant request must be adequately budgeted and justified in section 29.</i> <i>Grants may be used exclusively for the Project and the activities for which they are approved.</i> <i>If relevant, provide for an option analysis to develop the infrastructure through a Public-Private Partnership. This requirement does not apply to applications for investments at advanced stages of preparation; in such cases, a justification for not conducting an option analysis must be provided.</i> <p><i>As with the previous round, DG ENEST will also offer targeted capacity-building support to interested beneficiaries for developing a selected number of application forms in Phase 2. Applicants must indicate in this whether they will require such assistance if their application advances beyond Phase 1.</i></p> <p><i>If relevant, express the interest to benefit targeted capacity-building during the preparation of the sections of the Phase 2 application form</i></p>		

⁵ A fuller list of examples, by sector, is available in OECD’s Handbook for climate marking https://www.oecd.org/dac/environment-development/Revised%20climate%20marker%20handbook_FINAL.pdf

		<p>concerning the Terms of Reference.</p> <p><i>[This section will be relevant for the determination if, according to Annex V (now called Annex IV in the current version) of the Vademecum, approved by the WBIF Steering Committee by written procedure WBIFWP: 010_27/06/17, a future change in scope will be considered “minor” (and should only be reported by IFIs via the AIR) or “substantial” (requiring an Operational Board opinion, either in a Operational Board meeting or via Written Procedure).]</i></p>
<p>28.2</p>	<p>Detailed scope of work and results for TA grant activities (the Action)</p>	<p><i>Provide the following information developed at the ToR level with sufficient detail to efficiently monitor the implementation of the activities by the TA-implementation consultant and to have all elements defined to review and approve the quality and timely provision of the (draft) deliverables:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Describe the objective, purpose and expected results of the activities;</i> • <i>Describe critical risks that should be considered in implementing the activities;</i> • <i>Provide a detailed and precise description of the scope of work of the TA activities financed by the WBIF grant request, list all the deliverables of the activities and summarise their contents;</i> • <i>Specify standards, norms, regulations and guidelines applicable to the activities financed by the grant request. Include the requirements of national laws, the EU, and Financial Institutions. Briefly describe the differences between the national standards, legal provisions and the EU/IFIs rules.</i> • <i>Define the required surveys with a cost estimate for the incidental budget;</i> • <i>Present the core team, matching required expertise with the activities financed by the grant and, in case of a fee-based TA contract, the indicative number of working days for carrying out the activities;</i> • <i>Define the reporting procedures and requirements, including the review and approval process, especially regarding the national requirements.</i> • <i>Elaborate on the PPP option analysis, provide cornerstones, opportunities and limitations of a potential PPP approach.</i> <p><i>[This section will be included in the ToR for the TA assignment; please ensure the information provided is exhaustive and complete.</i></p> <p><i>Changes/amendments to the scope of work presented in this section can be made without the need for an Operational Board opinion, provided these are within the boundaries of the scope of work as set out in subsection 28.1.]</i></p>

<p>29</p>	<p>WBIF grant amount calculation and justification</p> <p><i>List the activities and their corresponding amounts that the WBIF grant will fund. Provide detailed information on the assumptions made in calculating the WBIF grant to ensure that all the activities are feasible in terms of scope, timing, and cost-effectiveness (human and material resources employed).</i></p> <p><i>All costs must be duly detailed, eligible and appropriate for the Action. All cost estimates should be based on those of similar projects (financed by IFI loan(s) or donor grants). Specify indicative working days used in calculations.</i></p> <p><i>It is essential to list the types of activities to be funded by the WBIF grant, listing the cost categories and their corresponding amounts. For technical assistance, this should include a breakdown of planned activities and corresponding costs. All the costs considered in calculating the WBIF grant should be duly detailed, eligible and appropriate for the Action.</i></p> <p><i>Demonstrate that own funding sources are correctly allocated and secured to cover all non-eligible costs required for the timely completion of the technical documentation (e.g. planning/design (permits) fees, costs of technical design review and approval (for example, the state revision committee(s), etc.)).</i></p> <p><i>In justifying the grant amount, please also consider the Beneficiary's macroeconomic situation, the Project's economic and financial viability, the WBIF grant's additionality, the envisaged impacts, affordability concerns, and the impact on tariffs (e.g. for revenue-generating projects financed by user charges).</i></p> <p><i>[This section will be relevant for the determination if, according to Annex V (now called Annex IV in the current version) of the Vademecum, approved by the WBIF Steering Committee by written procedure WBIFWP: 010_27/06/17, a future change in scope will be considered “minor” (and should only be reported by IFIs via the AIR) or “substantial” (requiring an Operational Board opinion, either in a Operational Board meeting or via Written Procedure).]</i></p>
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<i>Procedure).]</i>	
Type of activity/cost categories	Grant amount requested [€]
Pre-feasibility Study	
Feasibility Study including Cost-Benefit Analysis	
Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Study	
Preliminary Design	
Detailed Design	
Preparation of tender dossiers	
Project management assistance (support to PIU)	
Contingencies	
Other	
Grant without fees	<i>[SUM (1:10) filled in automatically in MIS]</i>
Implementation fee	<i>[filled in automatically in MIS]</i>
Total WBIF grant amount	<i>[filled in automatically in MIS]</i>
<i>[Justification of the grant amount]</i>	

30	Additionality of WBIF grant	
	<i>This section addresses the additionality of the WBIF TA grant, i.e., what it will achieve in terms of benefits or positive results over and above what would be achieved without the grant. (Grant funding is justified only when significant additionality is shown to the financing itself).</i>	
	<i>Please complete this section in close cooperation with the LFI.</i>	
	<i>For early-stage projects (pre-feasibility study, feasibility study), this section can be kept brief.</i>	
	<i>For advanced stage projects, identify the categories of additionality applicable to the WBIF TA grant. Some types of additionalities are quantifiable, and applicants should make every effort to quantify the grant's additionality as far as possible. Others may not be quantifiable and should be addressed qualitatively. Evidence should be provided to support claims of additionality as far as possible.</i>	
	<i>Include also elements that will lead to additional benefits related to cross-cutting aspects, such as the environment, gender equality and equal opportunities, the needs of people with disabilities, the rights of minorities and vulnerable groups, innovation and best practices, etc.</i>	
	Economic and financial	<i>What are the economic benefits of the proposed WBIF TA grant? Why is the proposed grant funding necessary for the Project? What are the financial benefits of the WBIF TA grant to the Project? How will this impact the end beneficiaries?</i>
	Project scale	<i>How will the WBIF TA grant increase the scale of the Project? Will it broaden the Project's results, or will it extend its benefits to more people? For example, would the WBIF TA grant support more comprehensive studies covering a broader scale than would be possible if the studies were financed from (limited) other sources?</i>
Project timing	<i>In what way does the WBIF TA grant positively affect the timing of the (planning of the) Project?</i>	
Project quality and standards	<i>How will the WBIF TA grant improve the quality of the expected outcomes of the Project? How will the WBIF TA grant improve the Project's chances of success? How will the WBIF TA grant enable the promotion of higher standards, including social and environmental and more substantial social or global public good returns than would otherwise be possible? Does the WBIF TA grant contribute to better address gender equality and equal opportunities, the needs of people with disabilities, and the rights of minorities and/or vulnerable groups?</i>	
Innovation	<i>What innovative aspects could not be generated by or within the target environment of the Project without the WBIF TA grant support? Why is the proposed innovation important?</i>	
Sustainability	<i>Does the WBIF TA grant help support further or parallel activities to ensure that benefits continue beyond the life of the Project? For example, does the WBIF TA grant contribute to structural reforms or support legislative, regulatory, and policy changes? Does the</i>	

33	Visibility	<p>The Action will meet the EU visibility requirements for EU-funded external actions. To that end, the implementing partners comply with the instructions in the 2022 guidance document, "Communicating and raising EU visibility: Guidance for external actions" (or any successor document).</p> <p>Implementing partners will keep the Commission and the relevant EU Delegation(s)/Office informed of the planning and implementation of specific visibility and communication activities before the implementation.</p> <p><i>In line with requirements set out in the 2022 "Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions", implementing partners have a general obligation to acknowledge the origin and ensure the visibility of any EU funding received. The costs associated with ensuring EU visibility (emblem and funding statement) count as eligible costs and should be factored into the budget under the relevant activity to which they relate.</i></p> <p><i>Beyond ensuring EU visibility by prominently featuring the EU emblem and funding statement on any material and activity which relates to the Project, implementing partners are not required to undertake communication activities. Thus, implementing partners are not required to include a specific budget and a communication and visibility plan in the grant application form. However, the implementing partners will ensure that the EU is regularly informed sufficiently in advance of any planned communication activity that directly relates to the Project, particularly those activities related to key implementation milestones. Whenever requested by the EU, the recipients of EU funding should support the EU's own communication actions (e.g. by providing content or supporting access to the Project for campaigns or media actions managed by the EU).</i></p> <p><i>The WBIF Communication and Visibility Plan and Guidelines further detail the roles and responsibilities of the WBIF's main stakeholders.</i></p>
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34	Contacts	<p>Provide contact details for the LFI, representative of the Beneficiary's authority, reference person in the EU Delegation/Office, co-financier(s), private partner (if applicable), taking into account any restrictions imposed by banking regulations, confidentiality and compliance issues, etc.</p> <p>The drafters of this section (provision of personal data below) confirm that the below-listed individuals are aware of the European Commission's data protection rules, and have seen and are aware of the applicable privacy statement available at this link (https://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register/detail/DPR-EC-02847.2)</p>				
		Institution	Contact person	Function	Phone	Email
		Lead Financial Institution				
		Beneficiary authority				
		EU Delegation/Office				
		Co-financier(s)				
		Private partner(s)				

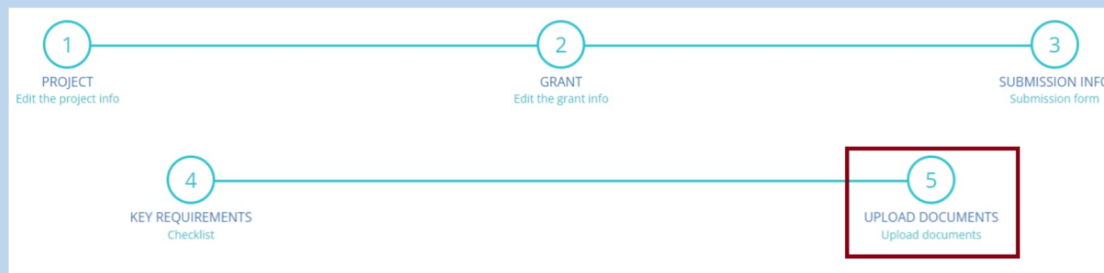
35	Date of submission by the NIPAC	<i>This section is filled in automatically in MIS.</i>	NIPAC Details	<i>This section is filled in automatically in MIS.</i>
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Annex 2: Result Framework Template TA

Please delete this box after filling in the section below.

The Result Framework constitutes the basis for monitoring and reporting on the Action.

This completed Result Framework (e.g. including baselines/targets) must be presented as “Annex 1 – Result Framework” to the application form. It must be uploaded under the heading “Upload documents” to MIS when the application form is submitted:



- In line with OECD/DAC terminology, the term ‘results’ is understood to cover Outputs, Outcomes (Specific Objectives) and Impact(s) (Overall Objective(s)). For technical assistance (TA) applications, the results are limited to Outputs and Outcomes of the Action funded by the TA grant request.
- How to develop the Results chain column:

The Indicative Result Framework should contain relevant Outputs and Outcomes of the activities funded by the TA grant (e.g. pre-feasibility study, feasibility study, ESIA, designs, etc.).

The Outputs and Outcomes depend on the scope of the Action (TA activities funded by the grant request) and must be defined by the applicant.

Outcome(s)	Definition: An Outcome is a short to medium-term change in the behaviour of the target groups and/or effects on the political, social, economic and/or environmental areas targeted by the WBIF Action – the Action will contribute to change at this level (it is under its influence but not direct control).
	How many? There can be both short- and medium-term outcomes. Please limit the number of Outcome(s) to 2-3 at most.
	Please use past participle for the formulation (enhanced, increased, improved, adopted...). Please avoid using causal links ('by', 'in order to'...).
Outputs	Definition: Outputs are direct deliverables or benefits of TA activities – under the direct control of the Action.
	Please use past participle for the formulation (strengthened, increased, improved...)
	Outputs are NOT activities.

- How to draft Indicators:
 - **Please use indicators that are most relevant and pertinent.**
 - Please include at least one indicator for each result. Indicators should be formulated to measure progress towards the relevant result.



- Indicators should be numbered so that they can be linked to the results they measure (see example in the Result Framework below).
 - Indicators must start with a unit of measure, either quantitative ('number of professionals/staff trained', 'percentage of', 'index') or qualitative ('status of', 'level of', 'extent to which'). Formulation of the indicators must be neutral, i.e. not include elements of the target such as 'increase', 'improvement', or 'better'.
 - Please disaggregate by sex, age and disability status when referring to and counting individuals, by urban/rural location, or any other relevant disaggregation reflecting the mainstreaming issues when relevant and possible.
 - Each indicator must have one reliable and accessible source of data. In some cases, more than one source of data per indicator may be needed.
 - Baselines and targets are mandatory and must always be included.
 - Avoid repeating indicators for different results.
 - Please ensure that indicators relevant to the Action are used.
- External assumptions
- Assumptions are external necessary and positive conditions – not under intervention management or entity control – that must hold for the result chain to be valid. They should be formulated based on the context analysis and the risk analysis.

Results	Results chain: Main expected results	Indicators [At least one indicator per expected result]	Unit of measure	Baselines (values and years)	Current values (Applicable at reporting stage)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Outcome 1	1 (past tense)	1.1 1.2	1.1 1.2	1.1 1.2	1.1 1.2	1.1 1.2	1.1 1.2	
Outcome 2	2 (past tense)	2.1 2.2	2.1 2.2	2.1 2.2	2.1 2.1	2.1 2.2	2.1 2.2	
	...							
Output 1 related to Outcome 1	1.1 (past tense)	1.1.1 1.1.2	1.1.1 1.1.2	1.1.1 1.1.2	1.1.1 1.1.2	1.1.1 1.1.2	1.1.1 1.1.2	
Output 2 related to Outcome 1 [and 2, 3... if applicable]	1.2 (past tense)	1.2.1 1.2.2	1.2.1 1.2.2	1.2.1 1.2.2	1.2.1 1.2.2	1.2.1 1.2.2	1.2.1 1.2.2	
Output 1 related to Outcome 2	2.1 (past tense)	2.1.1 2.1.2	2.1.1 2.1.2	2.1.1 2.1.2	2.1.1 2.1.2	2.1.1 2.1.2	2.1.1 2.1.2	
Output 2 related to Outcome 2	2.2 (past tense)	2.2.1 2.2.2	2.2.1 2.2.2	2.2.1 2.2.2	2.2.1 2.2.2	2.2.1 2.2.2	2.2.1 2.2.2	
	...							

Annex 2: Application Form for INV Round 12

IDENTITY OF THE PROJECT

1	Blending facility	WBIF	2	Grant code	<i>This is the code of the WBIF contribution and is communicated to the NIPAC at pre-notification. This section is filled in automatically in MIS when the application is submitted.</i>
3	WBIF approval date	<i>This is the date on which the WBIF approves the WBIF contribution. This section is filled in automatically in MIS.</i>	4	Flagship	<i>[select flagship] Select the relevant investment flagship from the drop-down list. If the Project does not fall under an investment flagship, select "None" from the drop-down list and justify application in section 18 – Coherence with the WBIF objectives, EU policies, and adopted national/sectoral strategies.</i>
5	WBIF intervention area	<i>[select intervention area] Select the intervention area addressed by the Project from the drop-down list.</i>	6	CRS code	<i>The OECD purpose code (CRS code) relevant to the Project must be entered in this section. The list of CRS codes is available at https://development-finance-codelists.oecd.org/Codeslist.aspx.</i>
7	Beneficiary	<i>[select name] Select the name of the Beneficiary from the drop-down list.</i>			
8	Project title	<i>Enter the name of the Project financed by the WBIF contribution. Please ensure it is short (maximum 250 characters) and includes the key elements of the Project, such as the infrastructure concerned and its location.</i>	9	Project code	<i>This code is specific to the WBIF MIS database and is either selected (for existing WBIF projects) or generated (for new projects) at the pre-notification stage.</i>
10	Lead Financial Institution	<i>[select name] Select the name of the Lead Financial Institution (LFI) from the drop-down list.</i>			
11	Co-financier(s)	<i>[select name] Select the names of other WBIF financial institutions that contribute financial resources to the Project if relevant: AFD, CEB, EBRD, EIB, KfW, or WB.</i>			
12	Type(s) of WBIF contribution	<p>INV <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TA <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Select the type(s) of WBIF contribution from the available options, i.e.:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Investment (INV): It is mandatory and is checked off by default.</i> • <i>Technical assistance (TA): It must be selected if the WBIF contribution funds TA activities.</i> <p><i>The types of WBIF contributions are defined as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Investment (INV): amount for co-financing works and supplies.</i> • <i>Technical assistance (TA): amount for support and capacity building activities necessary for the implementation of the Project, in particular, preparation of detailed design (if applicable or has yet to be developed), project management, and supervision of works. Some of these services are financed by loans, usually for more profitable investments, such as energy and road projects.</i> 			

		<i>The TA does not include activities related to the technical review, checking, and verification of project designs per national legislation, as well as other activities specific to urban planning and/or land ownership, e.g. preparation of urban plans, documentation for land expropriation, etc. The beneficiary bears these costs as part of its due diligence and project management controls.</i>		
13	Total WBIF grant amount (€)	Total amount: <i>This is the WBIF contribution amount with implementation fees. It is the “Total WBIF grant amount” from section 23.</i>	Total amount excl. fees:	<i>This is the WBIF contribution amount for the cost components “Works and supplies”, “Contingencies” and “Technical assistance” without implementation fees. It is the “WBIF contribution amount without fees” from section 23.</i>
			INV amount:	<i>This is the WBIF contribution amount exclusive of the implementation fee for the cost components “Works and supplies” and “Contingencies” from section 23.</i>
			INV fee:	<i>This is the implementation fee for the WBIF contribution amount for “Works and supplies” and “Contingencies”. It is the “Implementation fee for the INV component of this application” from section 23.</i>
			TA amount:	<i>This is the WBIF contribution amount for the cost component “Technical assistance” without the implementation fee from section 23.</i>
			TA fee:	<i>This is the implementation fee for the WBIF contribution amount for “Technical assistance”. It is the “Implementation fee for the TA component of this application” from section 23.</i>
14	Responsible authority of the Beneficiary	<p><i>Specify the Beneficiary’s authority (e.g. Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Environment, etc.) and the relevant departments in charge of the Project within that authority (e.g. Department for International Financial Cooperation, Department of Water, etc.)</i></p> <p> <i>Ensure consistency with section 20 – Institutional framework of the Project.</i></p>		
15	Implementing entity(ies)	<p><i>Indicate the entity(ies) responsible for the implementation of the Project (e.g. public transport company, public utility company in cooperation with the municipality, transmission system operator, etc.) and specify the nature of the implementing entity, i.e. whether it is public, mixed (please include ownership structure), or private.</i></p> <p><i>Note that in section 20 - Institutional framework of the Project, all entities involved should be included, whereas in this section, only the entity in charge of implementing the Project should be listed.</i></p> <p> <i>Ensure consistency with section 20 – Institutional framework of the Project.</i></p>		

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AND ACTION

16	<p>Description of the Project and Action</p> <p><i>This section is split into seven subsections; please include the required information in the relevant subsection. Provide a clear description of the infrastructure project, by component or phase if the Project has more than one component or phase, and of the activities financed by the WBIF contribution, i.e. the Action. The description should include the Project’s finality and its main components. It should be sufficiently robust and detailed to ensure a clear outline of the Project’s components and/or phases and the Action.</i></p>
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	<p>Ensure that the information is verifiable; use summary information from the technical documentation developed for the Project (e.g. feasibility study, ESIA, preliminary and/or detailed design, etc.) and document the sources.</p> <p>(Indicative max 750-1000 words)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill in this section in cooperation with the LFI. • Present concisely and coherently the information to understand the Project and the Action for which WBIF support is requested. • Ensure that the main direct and indirect beneficiaries are identified and described (i.e. those who will benefit from the Project). • Use and document official sources of information to justify key issues/main deficiencies and the demand analysis. • Link identified problems to specific objectives and proposed solution(s). • Avoid using jargon and acronyms. • Include a map of the location of the Project.
16.1	Background and context of the Project
	<p>Provide a concise description of the Project's background, including at least an overview of the existing situation and trends in the sector addressed by the Project. What is needed? How is it justified? Where does the project idea originate from? What are the market failures or suboptimal investment situations which will be addressed, which may be proven to be financially viable but do not give rise to sufficient funding from market sources? Where relevant, describe the avoidance of the potential crowding out of other sources of finance.</p> <p>Market failure is traditionally defined as a situation in which the distribution of goods and services is inefficient, whereby individual incentives for rational behaviour do not lead to rational outcomes for the group. It is, therefore, a disequilibrium state in which the rational behaviour of the individual does not lead to a rational behaviour for the group. In these situations, donors can support the beneficiary government in intervening to provide public goods and in handling both positive and negative externalities of free market economic activities.</p> <p>Public goods are defined by two distinct aspects: non-excludability and non-rivalrous consumption. "Non-excludability" means that people cannot be excluded from their fruition, while "non-rivalrous" consumption means that the consumption of a good by one person does not reduce the amount available for others. Public goods such as infrastructure, non-toll roads, municipal sewage systems, and energy-efficient public buildings are examples of public goods, as are many others, including well-educated youth. Externalities occur when a transaction spillover benefits (positive) or costs (negative) parties not involved in the original transaction. Thus, a private company's investment in renewable energy facilities has a positive spillover for the general population in terms of air quality, while a chemical plant's continued reliance on old technology has a negative spillover effect due to the pollutants it releases into the environment, which could be avoided if the company were to invest in renewing its equipment.</p> <p>While making the argument that the proposed action intends to create public goods or manage positive and negative externalities, thus addressing a market failure or a suboptimal investment situation, bear in mind that the European Commission remains an economic actor managing scarce resources in pursuit of its policy priorities. It is, therefore, important that you carefully qualify and quantify the public goods and externalities that the action intends to create.</p> <p>Describe any other relevant socio-economic implications of the Project, e.g. relevant information on the social and/or market impact that the Project, if implemented, will have, for instance, a significant and sudden rise in utility tariffs, which may be necessary for the sustainability of the sector and of the Project, but which may have important social consequences.</p> <p>Describe reference programmes in the beneficiary economy/region/sector (e.g. similar programmes carried out in the sector), these programmes' benchmarks, and the main lessons learnt.</p> <p>Explain the involvement of the private sector if relevant.</p>
16.2	Needs/demand analysis (current and forecast)
	<p>Using quantitative and qualitative data, describe the problems (including gaps, shortcomings, or deficiencies) the Project addresses to demonstrate that the investments are needed. It is paramount to summarise critical infrastructure deficiencies and needs that the Project (or project component/phase) will address and bring to EU standards.</p> <p>Provide a summary of the demand analysis, including the predicted demand growth rate, to demonstrate the demand for the Project in accordance with the results of the Cost-Benefit Analysis. Minimum information required: (i) projections methodology; (ii) assumptions and baselines (e.g. traffic in the past, future traffic without the Project); (iii) projections for selected options (if applicable); (iv) supply-side aspects, including analysis of existing and expected infrastructure developments; (v) network effect (if any).</p>
16.3	Description of the intervention
	<p>Provide the narrative that supports the intervention logic identified in the Result Framework in Annex 2. Note that the ambitions set in this narrative part are to be consistent with the outcomes and output levels of the</p>

	<p>result framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In line with OECD/DAC terminology, the term ‘results’ is understood to cover Outputs, Outcomes (Specific Objectives) and Impact(s) (Overall Objective(s)). The Result Framework for WBIF projects is limited to outputs and outcomes. • Starting from the market failure described in section 16.1, describe each element of the results chain following a vertical approach (from the bottom – outputs, to the top – outcomes) in which cause and effect relationships are identified and are to be achieved at different moments in time. • Consider the sequential and temporal path of the intervention logic in this section. • Briefly mention how the different stakeholders are involved in the implementation of the intervention and who will benefit from it (main direct and indirect beneficiaries). • The description of the intervention should not be confused with the implementation plan and the activities to be implemented under the Project, which are described in sections 16.5 and 17.
16.4	Project map
	<p>Include a map that clearly shows the project area and its context to provide a clear understanding of the location of the Project's facilities. The map should be easy to read, high-quality, preferably in colour, and include a clear legend (map key).</p>
16.5	Description of the Project
	<p>The description must be structured, concise, clear and focused on key aspects: main characteristics (design specifications) and components and/or phases of the Project (if it has more than one component or phase), justification of the Project's scope and size in relation to forecasted demand, explanation of options selected concerning climate change and the results of the natural disasters risk assessment (as applicable), primary beneficiaries of the infrastructure (e.g. target population served).</p> <p>If the Project has several phases or components, present those already completed and under implementation, as well as subsequent phases and/or components in chronological order.</p> <p>Briefly describe and quantify the beneficiaries of the Project, emphasising vulnerable, disadvantaged, and gender-sensitive groups.</p>
16.6	<p>Description of the Action</p> <p>Describe the scope of the Action, i.e. the project activities funded by the WBIF contribution, split into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment: works and supplies co-financed by the WBIF contribution. • TA (if applicable): technical assistance financed partially or entirely by the WBIF contribution. <p>Describe how the supervision of works will be carried out for the works and supplies co-financed by the WBIF contribution.</p> <p>Please note that the activities of the intervention are not to be considered results, which are instead captured in Annex 2. This section is meant to provide an overview of the activities that will be performed against available resources. Ensure consistency between the description of the Action and the cost components in section 23 – Calculation of the WBIF investment grant.</p>
16.6.1	Investment component
	<p>For the investment component, describe quantitatively and qualitatively the works and the supplies co-financed by the WBIF contribution: main characteristics (design specifications) and components, expected outcomes, how the components co-financed by the WBIF contribution are linked to other Project components, location/site of the works and how they contribute to achieving the objectives of the Project. Explanatory graphs, tables or pictures may complement the description. If the WBIF contribution co-finances the entire Project, specify that and do not repeat the description of works and supplies in this subsection.</p>
16.6.2	TA component (as applicable)
	<p>If the WBIF contribution finances TA, describe the scope of each TA activity for which the WBIF contribution will be used and in which stage of the project cycle they will be brought in (e.g. design, procurement, construction, etc.) Specify the normative provisions and standards that are mandatory for implementing the TA.</p>
16.7	Reference documents
	<p>List the documents used in drafting section 16, e.g. studies, technical documentation, statistics, strategies, action plans, etc. Indicate the document title, author, issue date, and URL if available online.</p>
17	<p>Indicative project status and planning</p> <p>Describe the Project's current stage and the envisaged timeline per the instructions below. The following key aspects should be covered in this section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical: status of/planning for preparing the masterplan, pre-feasibility study, feasibility study and cost-benefit analysis, environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA), preliminary and detailed

designs, tender documents, etc. Indicate each technical documentation's title, author, issue, and approval date.

- **Administrative:** status of/planning for urban planning, environmental permit, land availability, invitations to tender, construction permit, etc.
- **Financial:** status of/planning for loan agreement(s) with the LFI and other IFIs financing the Project (e.g. under negotiation, signed, etc.), other donor grants, allocation from the national budget, etc.

Ensure that the Project meets the maturity requirements, according to the clarification of mature and non-mature projects in the table below-

No.	Project phase/criterion	Maturity	Comment
1.	Masterplan or other relevant spatial planning document(s)	De facto not mature	
2.	Definition of the investment project	De facto not mature	
3.	Pre-feasibility Study	De facto not mature	(e.g. the conclusion could be that the project is not bankable)
4.	Feasibility Study and Cost-Benefit Analysis	De facto not mature	(e.g. the conclusion could be that the project is not bankable)
5.	Land ownership	Presumption of non-maturity	Unless land ownership can only occur after financing is secured.
6.	Preliminary Design	Presumption mature	Unless vital elements are missing, these projects are mature.
7.	Detailed Design	Presumption mature	Unless vital elements are missing, these projects are mature.
8.	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment	Presumption mature	Unless vital elements are missing, these projects are mature. An adequate ESIA must be in place to facilitate loan signing. Mature if an adequate ESIA is in place; not mature if vital elements are missing.
9.	Loan and grant negotiations for the investments	De facto mature	
10.	Signing of loan and grant agreements for the investments	De facto mature	
11.	Procurement	De facto mature	
12.	Contracting of works	De facto mature	
13.	Construction and supervision	De facto mature	

- The stage of the Project must reflect its status at submission: previous stages/phases of the Project must be completed, including conclusions.
- Ensure fulfilment of maturity requirements, e.g. confirmation of completion of the technical documentation and tender dossiers for all components associated with the Action, availability and suitability of land ownership, loan agreements with IFI(s);
- If, for any reason, the activities financed by the WBIF contribution are not ready to start, briefly present the issues.
- Complete this section in cooperation with the LFI.



Note:

(a) If complete, provide exact dates; if only planned, indicate at least the month and year.

(b) Select one of the following status options in the table:

- Completed (C)
- Work in progress (WIP)
- Not started (NS)
- Not applicable (N/A).

(c) Describe the current stage and/or planning for each activity following the instructions included in the table. Additional activities specific to the Project can be added as separate entries (individual rows) in the table.

Activity	Duration ^(a)		Status ^(b)	Comments ^(c)
	Start date (MM/YYYY)	Completion date (MM/YYYY)		
Masterplan and other relevant spatial planning documents	[insert date]	[insert date]	[select status]	Short description of the status, results, main conclusions, outstanding issues and/or conditions. Include the title, author and issue date.

Definition of the investment project	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[insert date]</i>	[select status]	<i>Describe how the Project is a priority for the national authority. E.g. the Project's position and scoring in the SPP. Justify the application if the Project is not ranked or has a low SPP score.</i>
Strategic Environmental Assessment (if applicable)	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[insert date]</i>	[select status]	<i>Short description of the status, results, main conclusions, outstanding issues and/or conditions. Include the title, author and issue date.</i>
Pre-feasibility Study	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[insert date]</i>	[select status]	<i>As above</i>
Conceptual Design	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[insert date]</i>	[select status]	<i>As above</i>
Feasibility Study (including Cost-Benefit Analysis)	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[insert date]</i>	[select status]	<i>As above</i>
Environmental and Social Impact Assessment	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[insert date]</i>	[select status]	<i>Short description of the status, milestones, and decisions stemming from the ESIA procedure leading to the development consent (e.g. ESIA screening decision, environmental consent decision). Indicate if the ESIA Study meets the requirements for the Project's appraisal and the implementation procedures of the LFI. <u>Start date:</u> Onset of the application for environmental consent. <u>Completion date:</u> End of the ESIA procedure, including appeals and final decision.</i>
Preliminary Design	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[insert date]</i>	[select status]	<i>Short description of the status, results/main conclusions, outstanding issues and/or conditions. Include the title, author and issue date.</i>
Land ownership	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[insert date]</i>	[select status]	<i>Short description of the legal ownership of the project site(s) and the land for the new investments, land use planning decision(s) concerning the project sites(s), and significant risks of delay and/or pending decisions on land purchase (e.g. expropriations). Land availability is critical for infrastructure development and one of</i>

				<p><i>the leading causes of delay. During the design phase, the availability of the land must be fully acknowledged, and all related issues must be identified, including estimated acquisition costs and the time required for expropriation procedures (if any).</i></p> <p><i>It is common and good practice to consider a project mature for co-financing only if the land has already been acquired and is available, as significant delays in the acquisition plan can extend the overall construction period. Such a situation can be avoided only if the land acquisition programme is significantly advanced or the government has committed to providing unencumbered land.</i></p>
Detailed Design	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[insert date]</i>	[select status]	<p><i>Short description of the status, results/main conclusions, outstanding issues and/or conditions. Include the title, author and issue date.</i></p>
Construction and other statutory permits	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[insert date]</i>	[select status]	<p><i>Short description of the status, development consent decision(s) - i.e. construction permit - or expected decisions, and renewals/updates of authorisations/approvals. If authorisations have not yet been issued, indicate the estimated completion timeframe.</i></p>
Loan(s) negotiation and signing	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[insert date]</i>	[select status]	<p><i>Short description of the status of loan agreements with the IFIs financing the Project, e.g. under negotiation, terms agreed upon, signed, etc.</i></p>
Preparation of tender dossier(s)	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[insert date]</i>	[select status]	<p><i>Short description of the status and construction contract type (e.g. FIDIC Pink/Red Book, FIDIC Yellow Book, etc.</i></p>
Procurement for works (per phase/component)	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[insert date]</i>	[select status]	<p><i>Short description of the status, potential delays (e.g. appeals, retendering), contract(s) signature, and type of contract (e.g. FIDIC Red/Pink Book or Yellow</i></p>


					Book). If the Project has more than one component and/or phase, describe the status of procurement procedures for each component and/or phase.
	Construction works	[insert date]	[insert date]	[select status]	<p>Short description of the status. If the Project is divided into phases and/or components, list each phase and/or component separately.</p> <p>If, for any reason, the Project or the activities financed by the WBIF contribution (i.e. the Action) are not ready to start, briefly describe the issues.</p> <p>If the Project has already started, indicate the implementation status of each phase and/or component, describe the executed works, and provide the percentage completed.</p>

18	<p>Coherence with the EIP, EU policies, and adopted national/sectoral/regional strategies</p> <p>Provide a structured, concise and precise description of how the Project (i) addresses the WBIF blending investment priorities in line with the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans (EIP), the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, the WBIF Strategic Orientations 2021-2027, (ii) meets and contributes to the fulfilment of EU policies and core directives, and (iii) is consistent with the adopted national sectoral strategy, relevant national and regional development plans and strategies, in particular those of the sector the Project addresses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the Project addresses the WBIF blending investment priorities, the policy objectives and investment flagships of the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans. • Ensure that the strategic justification of the Project is reliable and relevant. • Demonstrate the Project's compliance with relevant national legislation, EU acquis and policies and other donors' strategies. • Ensure that the Project considers any special needs and responds to challenges related to any forms of discrimination and environmental impact. • Ensure correlation between the information included in the SSP and the application form (e.g., project title, total project cost). <p>(Indicative max 500 words)</p>
18.1	<p>Alignment with the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans</p> <p>Describe how the Project addresses the WBIF intervention areas, policy objectives and investment flagships of the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans. The description should consider the relevant WBIF investment priorities, in the intervention area of environment and climate, as well as the investment flagships identified in the Annex to the Economic and Investment Plan.</p>
18.2	<p>Alignment with Green Agenda objectives</p> <p>Describe how the Project is consistent with the Guidelines for the implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans.</p> <p>For all projects, specify positive and negative impacts concerning the five pillars of the Green Agenda (e.g. decarbonisation, depollution, circular economy, sustainable food systems and rural areas, and biodiversity).</p>
18.3	<p>Coherence with EU policies and core directives</p>

<p>Explain how the Project contributes to the fulfilment of EU policies and core directives (e.g. environment, climate change, state aid, public procurement). Please refer to relevant EU policy documents, such as the EU pre-accession strategy, the Country/Regional Multi-Annual Indicative Programme, the IPA III Regulation objectives and other EU interventions in the country/region.</p>	
18.4	Compliance with adopted national/sectoral strategies
<p>Describe the Project's compliance with the main national/regional policies for the concerned sector or thematic area (including gender equality strategies or action plans), consistency with the national/regional development strategy, sector strategy, action plan and with the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), National Energy and Climate Plan, or National Adaptation Plan (NAP). Explain how the Project contributes to national/regional policies and summarise the main objectives of the Beneficiary's policy that the Project supports.</p> <p>Indicate the Project's position in the SPP and justify the application if the Project is ranked low in the SPP. Describe the Project's priority from the point of view of national and regional authorities.</p> <p>Describe any related projects (financed by WBIF, national IPA, or other donors/ financiers) and indicate how coordination and complementarity with those projects will be ensured.</p>	

19	<p>Consultations before submission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIC • IFIs • EU Delegation(s) • Donors • Regional/international organisations • Other stakeholders 	<p>Summarise the timing, nature and outcome of consultations conducted before submission with the following stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Investment Committee (NIC) or equivalent national structure; • LFI and co-financiers; • EU Delegation(s); • Geographical unit(s) of DG ENEST; • Other donors; • International and regional organisations; • Other stakeholders, if relevant (e.g. civil society organisations, etc.) <p>Expound on the political support for the Project, i.e. the confirmation letter to the European Commission and IFIs by the relevant Ministry of Finance, confirming that (i) the Project is a high priority for the Beneficiary, (ii) its costs are planned and foreseen in the future budget, (iii) and relay a firm commitment to take up the loan and to implement the Project per the application (concerning scope and timeline). Indicate whether this letter is submitted with the application.</p> <p>(Indicative max. 200 words)</p>
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20	Institutional framework of the Project	
<p>Describe the institutional aspects of the Project's implementation: Who and how will ensure its implementation? What is the role of these entities? Add a chart illustrating the institutional framework.</p>		
20.1	Description of entities involved	
<p>Describe the entities involved in the implementation of the Project, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiary(ies) authority(ies) (e.g. Ministry(ies) and department(s)); • Owner of the construction permit(s) for the Project; • Implementing entity(ies) or equivalent; • Project Management Unit (PMU)/Project Implementation Unit (PIU) or equivalent; • In case of involvement of a privately-owned company, clarify the contractual structure (e.g. concession, private-public partnerships). 		
20.2	Organisational set-up	
<p>This section should provide a comprehensive account of the organisational structure put in place for implementing the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the role (tasks, responsibilities, relations between the different bodies) of the LFI (local/regional offices, sector manager in the Beneficiary), the co-financiers and other entities involved (institutions/authorities of the Beneficiary, implementing entity(ies), other donors, etc.) to demonstrate the existing capacity for implementing the Project. • Clarify whether the Project involves creating an implementation unit (e.g., a Project Implementation Unit (PIU)) and describe its setup, roles, and responsibilities. • Indicate if the beneficiary/PIU can define the investment plan, procure and implement the Project or if technical assistance is needed. • Provide a brief description of in-country coordination arrangements, including with EU Delegations. 		

- If applicable, provide a comprehensive description of the organisational structure for operating the investment in the project area. Include existing institutional structure (e.g. ownership of infrastructures, contractual obligations to the new infrastructure, the evolution of tariffs, etc.)
 - Indicate whether the WBIF contribution will be pooled in a joint Project account with funds from the LFI and other co-financing institutions or kept in a separate account.
 - Describe the flow of the WBIF contribution to entities involved, down to the final beneficiaries/recipients.
 - Clearly define the specific roles of the institutions involved in the Project.
-  • Ensure the institutional aspects of implementing the Project and operating the new investments are duly described.
- Include a chart illustrating the institutional framework of the Project.

21 Project budget and financing plan

A clear and complete project budget (cost breakdown structure) and financing plan (sources of funds and corresponding contributions) should be provided. Please include the cost components, their description (related activities), the corresponding amount in the budget matched against sources of funds and their financial contributions to the financing plan. The costs should not include VAT.

The prefilled cost components listed in the application form are indicative; their final composition is left to the applicant's appreciation. The budget should provide a detailed indication of the Project's main costs and budget resources.

The costs for works and supplies without contingencies must be listed separately from TA for project preparation and implementation. Costs associated with ensuring EU visibility are eligible and can be budgeted. However, rather than being included in a standalone visibility budget line, visibility costs should be factored into the budget under the relevant activity to which they relate, i.e. works and supplies. The budget can also include contingencies, subject to justification and assessment by the relevant donor. If the Project has more than one component and/or phase, the costs must be presented by project component and/or phase (i.e. in individual rows as in the table). The financing plan should contain the actors (i.e. sources of funds) that provide financing to the Project, the amount of their contribution and the cost components financed by each contribution: WBIF, Lead Financial Institution, co-financiers, Beneficiary's contribution (national contribution), EU National IPA, other private (e.g. commercial banks) and public financiers (e.g. other donors). Please indicate the type of contributions from each source of funds: investment grant, technical assistance grant, loan, guarantee, equity, interest rate subsidies or other. Create separate entries (i.e. individual rows in the table) for each source and type of funds (e.g., loan, grant) and differentiate between sovereign and non-sovereign loans and private sector finance.

The fields for sums and percentages are filled in automatically in MIS. The amounts of "Total project cost" and "Total financing available" must be identical to submit the application.

While it is understood that the figures provided in this section are indicative and may differ from the final ones to be used in the contracting phase, the applicant should put in all the efforts to ensure that these amounts reflect the expected amounts involved in the Project as closely possible.

The categories of costs eligible for WBIF co-financing refer to costs that, with due regard to the eligibility criteria set in Chapter 3 of these Guidelines, are **necessary for implementing the Action funded by the WBIF contribution**. The costs must be reasonable and justified and comply with the principle of sound financial management, particularly regarding economy and efficiency.


The categories of costs eligible for infrastructure projects co-financing are the following:

- Works (building and construction);
- Supply (plant and machinery);
- Technical assistance for preparation of detailed design (if applicable or has yet to be developed), project management support;
- Supervision of works;
- EU visibility costs;
- Contingencies.

The detailed design cost (including final cost estimates and tender documents) is typically around 4–5% of the estimated investment cost (i.e. works, supplies and contingencies) for infrastructure projects. Construction supervision usually adds another 4–5% to the estimated cost. **Contingencies** should not exceed 10% of the investment cost (i.e. works and supplies) net of contingencies.

As a rule, the following costs are **not eligible for WBIF co-financing**:

- Expenditure incurred prior to the signature of the relevant Contribution Arrangement;
- Expenditure ineligible under national rules.
- Cost of purchase of land or buildings;
- Planning/design fees;
- Technical review, check and verification of project design(s) as per national legislation and other activities specific to urban planning and/or land ownership, e.g. preparation of urban plans, documentation for land expropriation;

- Communication costs⁶;
 - Debts and debt service charges;
 - Any duties, taxes and charges, including but not limited to value-added tax (VAT), that are recoverable/deductible;
 - Fines, financial penalties, and litigation expenses;
 - Second-hand equipment;
 - Bank charges, cost of guarantees and similar charges;
 - Contributions in kind.
-  • Include all the cost components of the Project in the budget.
- Duly budget all cost components and keep them within thresholds.
 - Present the costs by component and/or phase of the Project in the budget.
 - Match the cost components with the sources of funds in the financing plan.
 - Complete this section with the LFI.

Indicative total project budget (cost breakdown)

Cost component number	Cost component description	Total costs (€) (A)	Non-eligible costs (€) ^(a) (B)	Eligible costs (€) ^(a) (C)=(A)-(B)
1	Planning/design (permits) fees	[insert amount]	[insert amount]	[filled in automatically in MIS]
2	Land purchase	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]
3	Technical assistance for project preparation (e.g. masterplan, pre-feasibility study, feasibility study, ESIA, detailed design, tender documents, procurement procedures)	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]
4	Technical assistance for project implementation (e.g. supervision of works, project management)	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]
5	Works (Building and construction) ^(b)	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]
6	Supply (Plant and machinery) ^(b)	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]
7	Contingencies ^(c)	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]
8	Other (e.g. project design review/verification by review committee) ^(d)	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]
Total project cost		[filled in automatically in MIS]	[filled in automatically in MIS]	[filled in automatically in MIS]

Financing plan

Source of funds	Cost component financed	Amount (€)	% / total	Remarks (i.e. Code/ Ref. of financing)
National contribution	[insert the number of the cost component(s) financed]	[insert amount]	[filled in automatically in MIS]	[indicate the budget in which the Project is included]
IFI Loan 1 [insert IFI name]	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]	[indicate if the loan is

⁶ Exceptionally, within the context of EU External Actions and with prior agreement of the EU, communication activities for specific projects/programmes may be funded as part of the action, if duly justified for the Action.

				sovereign or non-sovereign and its status is, e.g., estimated, terms agreed upon, signed, etc.]
IFI Loan 2 [insert IFI name]	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]
WBIF contribution amount requested without fees ^(e) [insert the code of the WBIF contribution]	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]	[current WBIF contribution request]
Other WBIF grants ^(f) [insert grant code]	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]	[indicate activities financed]
Other grants ^(f) [insert donor name]	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]	[code/reference number of the financing agreement, financed activities]
Other sources ^(f) [insert source name]	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]	[as above]
...
Total financing available		[filled in automatically in MIS]	[filled in automatically in MIS]	

^(a) Eligible and non-eligible cost categories listed above.

^(b) Excluding contingencies. If the project has more than one component or phase, the costs for works and supplies must be broken down by component or phase.

^(c) The need for contingency must be duly justified. The amount should be taken from the technical documentation developed for the Project and should be at most 10% of the costs for works and supplies net of contingencies. The utilisation of contingency funds during the implementation of the Action needs to be pre-authorised by the European Commission and can also be used to cover other eligible costs, such as negative interest, in accordance with the General Conditions and bilateral implementation agreements, if applicable.

^(d) Costs not included under cost components 1-7 should be listed here, e.g. project design review/check/verification by the revision committee. Technical review, check and verification of project design(s) as per the national legislation and other activities specific to urban planning and/or land ownership (e.g. preparation of urban plans, documentation for land expropriation, etc.) fall under the Beneficiary's responsibility for due diligence and control for project management. These costs are not eligible for WBIF contribution support.

^(e) Must be identical to the 'Grant amount without fees' (i.e. the WBIF contribution exclusive of implementation fees) from section 23 - Calculation of the WBIF investment grant.

^(f) Other WBIF grants/contributions approved for the investment project must be listed as separate entries (i.e. in individual rows) by WBIF grant/contribution code. Grants from other donors and funds from other sources must be presented as separate entries by source.

22	Fiscal space and debt sustainability	<p>Complete this section in cooperation with the LFI and the Ministry of Finance. Describe the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public debt in absolute terms and relative to GDP, recent trajectory and expected medium-term trajectory, and public debt levels vs debt ceiling, if applicable. Assess how the sovereign or sub-sovereign loan/guarantee (to which blending is to be added) attached to the Project affects the debt sustainability framework at national and sub-national levels, including in the case of default or if the guarantee is called on. If relevant, confirm that the operation is part of the investment pipeline agreed between the government and the IMF/World Bank. Sovereign credit rating and outlook of the Beneficiary and changes over the past two years, if applicable. Impact of the Project on public debt levels (e.g. Ministry of Finance commitment/consultation). Link the Project to the medium-term budgetary programme to demonstrate its sustainability.
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- Availability of budgetary funds and borrowing capacity for the Project.

23 Calculation of the WBIF investment grant

This section concerns the WBIF contribution, i.e. eligible project costs to be funded by the WBIF contribution, and the required implementation fees.

The **project-specific co-financing rate** applies to eligible costs for works, supplies and contingencies (i.e. the investment costs) for the Project components and/or phases to be co-funded by the WBIF contribution.

Investment costs for completed project components and/or phases are not eligible for WBIF co-financing. The co-financing rate and related amount may not exceed the maximum rate specified in Chapter 3.3 of these Guidelines for the subsector addressed by the Project. The applicant must justify the project-specific co-financing rate in section 24.

Technical assistance costs for project preparation and implementation (only the eligible cost categories listed in section 21) may be financed up to 100% of their total cost.

Costs associated with ensuring EU visibility should be factored into the costs for works and supplies, i.e. in line (1) in this section, as per the costs provided in section 21.

The following **implementation fees** apply to the WBIF contribution:

- 2% (two per cent) of the total co-financing amount of the investment component of the application (works and supplies, contingencies, costs associated with ensuring EU visibility) will be included in the total amount of the WBIF contribution.
- 4% (four per cent) of the total amount of the technical assistance component of the application will be included in the total amount of the WBIF contribution.

The maximum co-financing rate for the infrastructure investment depends on the results of the Cost-Benefit Analysis for the Project, the actual needs of the Project for public support, as well as consultations between the European Commission (DG ENEST), the Beneficiary and financial institutions.

- Include all the cost categories associated with the Action in the calculation of the WBIF contribution;
- Ensure a clear distinction between the components and/or phases of the Project and those co-financed by the WBIF contribution;



- Duly budget all the activities financed by the WBIF contribution and do not exceed the maximum co-financing rate;
- Ensure consistency between the technical description of the Action (subsection 16.5) and the WBIF contribution amount requested.
- Complete this section in cooperation with the LFI.

Cost component	TOTAL ELIGIBLE COSTS (€) (A)	CO-FINANCING RATE (%) (B)	MAXIMUM CO-FINANCING (€) (C) = (A) x (B)
(1) Works and supplies ^(a)	[amount]	Project specific co-financing rate%	[amount]
(2) Contingencies ^(b)	[amount]	Project specific co-financing rate%	[amount]
(3) Technical assistance ^(c)	[amount]	Up to 100%	[amount]
Grant amount without fees	[SUM (1:3) filled in automatically in MIS]		[SUM (1:3) filled in automatically in MIS]
(4) Implementation fee for the INV component of this application ^(d)			[amount filled in automatically in MIS]
(5) Implementation fee for the TA component of this application ^(e)			[amount filled in automatically in MIS]
TOTAL WBIF GRANT AMOUNT			[SUM(1:5)]

- (a) May include eligible costs for works (building and construction) and supplies (plant and machinery) from section 21 - Project budget and financing plan.
- (b) May include eligible costs for contingencies from section 21 - Project budget and financing plan. The costs for contingencies should be taken from the technical documentation developed for the Project and not exceed 10% of the costs for works and supplies.
- (c) May include eligible costs for technical assistance for project preparation (detailed design if applicable or has yet to be developed) and implementation (supervision of works, project management) from section 21 - Project budget and financing plan.
- (d) 2% of the maximum co-financing amount for works, supplies and contingencies.
- (e) 4% of the maximum co-financing amount for technical assistance.

24	WBIF grant amount justification	<p>Please explain thoroughly how the WBIF contribution was determined/calculated, providing the methodology used to reach the requested level of the WBIF contribution and co-financing rate, i.e. a detailed numerical calibration of the WBIF contribution.</p> <p>It is essential to describe the type of activities to be carried out due to the WBIF contribution, listing the cost components and their corresponding amounts for which WBIF contribution funding is requested (figures as provided in sections 21 and 23). For works, supply and technical assistance, this should include a breakdown of planned activities and corresponding costs, as well as why a specific co-financing rate is requested. For contingencies, this should include a description of what is covered by contingencies, how the amount requested for WBIF contribution funding was determined, and the reasons for covering that specific amount with WBIF contribution funding. All the costs considered in the calculation of the WBIF contribution should be duly detailed, eligible and appropriate for the Action.</p> <p>Address also the following aspects based on the technical documentation developed for the Project and document the sources: needs of the macro-economic situation of the Beneficiary, economic and financial viability of the Project, additionality of the WBIF contribution, envisaged impacts, affordability concerns, impact on tariffs (for revenue-generating projects by user charges).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete this section in cooperation with the LFI. • Provide a detailed numerical calibration of the WBIF contribution. • Duly justify the WBIF contribution amount and ensure that the results of the economic and financial analyses from the technical documentation support it.
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25	Additionality of WBIF grant	<p>Complete this section in cooperation with the LFI. This section deals with the additionality of the WBIF contribution, understood as what the WBIF contribution will achieve, in terms of benefits or positive results, over and above what would be achieved without it. The WBIF contribution is justified only when significant additionality is shown for the funding itself.</p> <p>Some types of additionalities are quantifiable, and the applicants should make every effort to quantify the additionality of the WBIF contribution as far as possible. Others may not be quantifiable, and those should be addressed qualitatively. Where a qualitative method is chosen, the reasons should be explained. Evidence should be provided to support claims of additionality as far as possible.</p> <p>Include elements that will lead to additional benefits related to cross-cutting issues, such as the environment, gender equality and equal opportunities, the needs of persons with disabilities, the rights of minorities and/or vulnerable groups whenever possible, innovation and best practices, etc.</p> <p>Identify among the following categories of additionality those applicable to the WBIF contribution and comment accordingly. Address only those categories where additionality is relevant and appropriate.</p>
	Economic and financial	<p>What are the economic benefits of the proposed WBIF contribution funding? Why is the proposed WBIF contribution funding necessary for the operation? What are the financial benefits of the WBIF's contribution to the Project? How will it impact the end beneficiaries? For example, broader access to finance for target groups, lower end-user tariffs, increased affordability of services, etc.</p>
	Project scale	<p>How will the WBIF contribution increase the scale of the Project? Will it widen the operation's results or extend the benefits to more people?</p>
	Project timing	<p>In what way does the WBIF contribution positively affect the timing of the</p>

	<i>operation and the benefits it is expected to deliver?</i>
Project quality and standards	<i>How will the WBIF contribution improve the quality of the outcomes expected from the operation? How will the WBIF contribution improve the Project's chances of success? How will the WBIF contribution promote higher standards (including social and environmental standards) and more substantial social or global public good returns than would otherwise be possible? Does the WBIF contribution promote gender equality and equal opportunities, the needs of persons with disabilities, and the rights of minorities and vulnerable groups?</i>
Innovation	<i>What innovative aspects of the Project would only be generated by or within the target environment with WBIF contribution support? Why is the proposed innovation important?</i>
Sustainability	<i>Does the WBIF contribution help support further or parallel activities to ensure that benefits continue beyond the life of the Project? For example, does the WBIF contribution contribute to structural reforms and support legislative, regulatory or policy changes? Does the WBIF contribution finance enable demonstration effects to other participants in the marketplace?</i>
Other benefits	<i>Other benefits/positive externalities that the Project may realise (or negative externalities avoided) and would not happen without the WBIF contribution. Are there any significant benefits outside the main/primary objectives of the loan operation that the WBIF contribution brings?</i>

26 Leverage ratios	<p><i>Complete this section in cooperation with the LFI. Leverage ratios indicate how the Project is financed, e.g. how much capital is put, in which form and by whom, or, in other words, who is doing what in financial terms. What is important here is the value of financing at source (e.g. outward flows from capital providers), divided by type of contribution (grants, financial instruments) and by actor (EU, IFI, Beneficiary, private sector). Three standard indicators are used: the EU leverage effect, the Lead Financial Institution leverage ratio, and the private sector finance leverage ratio. The individual elements of the calculation, not just the calculated leverage ratio, should be clearly stated in the application form.</i></p> <p><i>For coherent and transparent reporting, only funds that will be used in the investment project phase to which the WBIF contribution is attached should count towards the ratio – investments expected in future phases of the Project should not be counted unless they are committed at the same time as investments in the present phase. Finance provided as a parallel finance stream but not directly as an input into the Project should normally be excluded.</i></p> <p><i>Similarly, additional finance mobilised as an indirect result of the Project (e.g. as a result of the demonstration effect), even if the time lag is short, should not count towards the leverage ratio.</i></p> <p><i>Concerning the denominator of all three ratios, the total amount of EU blending support should include pre-investment technical assistance (technical assistance that enabled project identification or preparation) and investment phase technical assistance (technical assistance that accompanies the implementation phase).</i></p>
EU leverage effect	<p><i>= the amount of reimbursable financing provided to eligible final recipients divided by the amount of the EU contribution including fees, i.e. the ratio between the amount of reimbursable finance (by IFIs or other financiers) against EU contribution (i.e. blending contribution or budgetary guarantee coverage). The numerator of this ratio includes therefore only IFI reimbursable financial instruments.</i></p> <p>EU Leverage effect = Total reimbursable financing to eligible final recipients / Union contribution = $\rightarrow [C + E] / [A + B]$ or $E / [A + B]$</p>
Lead Financial Institution leverage ratio	<p><i>= total amount of financing provided by the LFI divided by the amount of the EU contribution including fees.</i></p> <p><i>The numerator of this ratio includes IFI reimbursable financial instruments and IFI grants.</i></p> <p>Lead finance institution leverage ratio = (Total eligible FI financing / Union contribution) = $\rightarrow [C + D] / [A + B]$</p>
Private sector finance leverage ratio	<p><i>= total amount of private sector financing (e.g. non-EU, non-IFI) in the investment project divided by the amount of the EU contribution including fees.</i></p> <p><i>The numerator of this ratio typically includes contributions from PFIs</i></p>

	(privately owned) and, where the case, equity from beneficiaries. Private sector finance leverage ratio = (Private sector financing / Union contribution) = $\frac{E + F}{A + B}$
Multiplier effect	= means the investment by eligible final recipients divided by the amount of the EU contribution.



27	Project sustainability <p>Complete this section in cooperation with the LFI. Describe under which conditions the Project will be sustainable when the WBIF contribution support will expire, including any incentives that could be necessary to enhance the sustainability of the Project. Describe how the maintenance of the Project will be ensured during project implementation and operation.</p> <p>Ensure that this section addresses the following sustainability aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The economic viability of the Project is confirmed with reasonable certainty, i.e. the net benefits are expected to be positive, there are no better ways of achieving the Project's purpose, and the public financial resources used for the Project are unlikely to be employed better elsewhere.</u> • <u>The Project proves to be accessible, i.e. all financing sources are secured, and it will be financially and fiscally sustainable once in operation.</u> • <u>Environmental and social impacts are acceptable, or if negative impacts are foreseen, appropriate mitigation measures are proposed.</u> • <u>Satisfactory project management arrangements will be put in place to deliver the Project to specifications on time and within budget.</u> • <u>Organisational arrangements for the operation of the Project will be adequate for the sustainable delivery of the proposed services.</u>
	Economic/financial viability Does the Project guarantee an acceptable economic (and financial, as applicable) return? Describe future revenue flows expected from the Project, operation and maintenance costs and their expected sources of finance.
	Environmental aspects Has the Project considered the environmental implications and taken measures to avoid or mitigate adverse environmental impacts throughout its life? Has a public consultation process taken place?
	Social aspects Has the Project incorporated mechanisms that guarantee equitable access to and continuous distribution of the Project's benefits? Describe the affordability approach if the Project will generate revenue (e.g., through tariffs, etc.).
	Institutional aspects Has the Project received the necessary support (both budgetary and institutional) to maintain and operate the facilities over their lifetime?

28	Risk assessment <p>Identify the project-related risks and how they will be mitigated. Assess how seriously the identified risks might influence the Project: high (H), medium (M) or low (L). Keep in mind that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risks are factors that might hinder the achievement of the desired outcomes and are out of the promoter's sphere of control. • Refer to impact assessments carried out, including ESIA (if applicable), climate risk and vulnerability assessment, and recommended mitigation measures. If any such impact assessments have not yet been completed but are required, please indicate them and why. • Indicate the applicable environmental and social standards/safeguards and provide the URL link to where these can be found. <p>Address the following risk categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political risks: including but not limited to the gap between legislation and standards of the Beneficiary and the EU, the pace of convergence, policy changes, and administrative changes. • Economic risks: Describe how macroeconomic conditions or policy changes may affect the Project, energy poverty, etc. • Financial risks (this should be linked to both the financing plan and entities involved in the implementation of the Project as detailed in sections 21 and 20): The description should focus on the following elements: (i) credit and currency risks of the beneficiaries; (ii) risks linked to financial institutions (intermediaries–, (iii) risk sharing operations - notably the percentage of expected and unexpected losses covered by WBIF funds, the period covered by risk sharing operations, the link between the size and use of the WBIF contribution requested and expected and unexpected losses or other risks taken. • Social risks, including gender equality and access to education, or the risk of creating barriers to the participation of some groups, public opposition, affordability issues, discriminatory practices, and evictions.
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- **Environmental risks**, including climate change and biodiversity loss, air pollution, and environmental injustice towards minority/vulnerable groups. This section must indicate the applicable environmental and social standards and safeguards that will be applied.
- **Implementation risks**, including:
 - Planning risks (e.g. the implementation of the Project fails to adhere to the terms of the planning permission, or the detailed planning cannot be obtained, or, if obtained, can only be implemented at higher costs than budgeted);
 - Technical/design risks (e.g. the quality of project designs/site investigations is likely to impact the likelihood of unforeseen problems; the use of suboptimal/obsolete technologies leads to substandard services, etc.);
 - Procurement risks (e.g. delay in procurement procedures, re-tendering, appeals, contractual disputes, etc.);
 - Construction risks (e.g. site unavailability, the construction of physical assets is not completed on time, budget and specification, etc.);
 - Risks related to project outputs not leading to intended outcomes.
- **Operation risks**: The risk that operating costs vary from the budget, performance standards slip, or the services cannot be provided; the demand for a service does not match planned, projected, or assumed levels, etc.
- **Human rights risks**
- **Other risks**: Risks that do not fit in the above classification should be described in this subsection (e.g. force majeure, adverse publicity regarding the construction or operation of the new infrastructure, etc.)
(Indicative max 500 words)

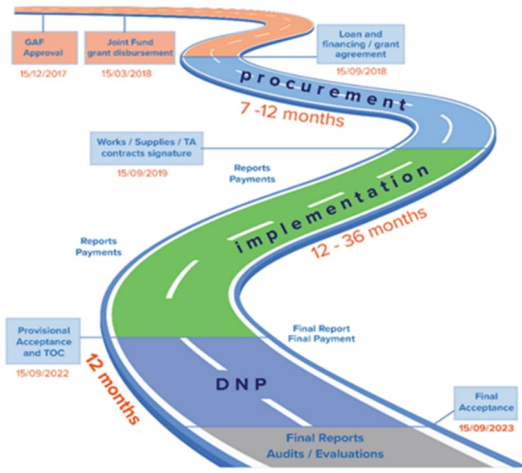
Type of risk	Description	Risk likelihood	Risk impact	Mitigation measure(s)
Political		[select likelihood]	[select impact]	
Economic		[select likelihood]	[select impact]	
Financial		[select likelihood]	[select impact]	
Social		[select likelihood]	[select impact]	
Environmental		[select likelihood]	[select impact]	
Implementation		[select likelihood]	[select impact]	
Operation		[select likelihood]	[select impact]	
Human rights		[select likelihood]	[select impact]	
Other		[select likelihood]	[select impact]	

29	Addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation	<p>Complete this section in cooperation with the LFI. Describe steps taken in project design and implementation to minimise the environmental impact and ensure the Project's resilience to climate change. Address the Project's potential contribution to GHG emission reduction and/or climate adaptation, and summarise the climate risk assessments conducted, considerations and measures for improving the Project's resilience to current and future climate risks. Elaborate on the Project's alignment with the Paris Agreement and the Beneficiary's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). Include project-specific climate markers (primary/secondary dimension, reduced emissions /carbon footprint).</p> <p>Describe the climate finance components of the Project (if any) for adaptation and/or mitigation. The Rio Markers methodology should be used to determine whether climate change is the principal objective, one of the objectives (significant), or not an objective of the Project. Please consult the OECD guidelines for identifying the Rio markers⁷. Based on its methodology, the LFI may propose a specific percentage of the project budget as a climate change contribution.</p>			
		<i>Mitigation</i>		<i>Adaptation</i>	
		Project [M€]	WBIF co-financing	Project [M€]	WBIF co-financing

⁷ A fuller list of examples, by sector, is available in OECD's Handbook for climate marking https://www.oecd.org/dac/environment-development/Revised%20climate%20marker%20handbook_FINAL.pdf

	RM0 (no objectives)		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
	RM1 (significant objective)		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
	RM2 (the principal objective)		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

30	Indicative calendar of the Action	<p><i>Summarise (narrative description) critical milestones in the procurement and implementation phases of the Action and procurement procedures.</i></p> <p><i>Provide the dates of specific milestones by identifying the quarter in which the Action's milestone is expected to be reached (e.g. Q1/2026). The milestones included in the application form template are mandatory. Additional milestones specific to the Action can be added as separate entries (rows) in the table.</i></p> <p><i>The following planning principles should be considered as guidance:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities should align with the standard time necessary for procedures (e.g. obtaining permits, etc.)</i> • <i>Activities should follow the sequential order of the development of the Action.</i> • <i>The duration of each activity should include a safety margin.</i> • <i>The overall duration of the Action should be sufficient for its complete execution.</i> • <i>Dead time or hectic periods should be avoided.</i> • <i>Periods in which involved institutions operate under a different regime (e.g. vacations, public holidays, etc.) or target groups are engaged in other activities (e.g. election campaigns, intensive activity season in agriculture, etc.) should be taken into account;</i> • <i>Activities impeding each other should not overlap.</i> • <i>To the extent practical, the resource utilisation should be uniform throughout the Action/Project.</i> • <i>The duration of the Action/Project determines the size of the budget (fixed costs).</i> <p><i>Critical stages in the development of the investment project may also be considered, e.g. securing internal management approvals for the project, funding, ownership/control of sites, planning approvals, completion of designs, launch of procurement, appointment of contractors, start of activities on site, completion of works, handover and official opening.</i></p> <p><i>Fill in the indicative calendar of the Action in the application form as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>For the procurement phase of the Action, describe in the narrative text box all the procurement procedures for implementing the Action. Provide an overview of the procurement rules that will be used, including the name(s) of the contracting authority(ies). Indicate when (e.g. Quarter/Year) and where tender(s) details, including tender(s) documents, will be published.</i> • <i>To implement the Action, indicate each activity's (estimated) start and completion dates. Ensure planned activities are logically sequenced and can be realistically implemented in the foreseen period. Each activity should be planned to be implemented within an appropriate period, for instance:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>TA for project management should start 3-6 months earlier than the works contracts and should last for the entire project implementation period, excluding the defects notification period (DNP);</i> ○ <i>TA for supervision of construction works should start in parallel with the works contracts and should be completed at the end of the DNP;</i> <p><i>The following illustration exemplifies typical timelines underlying the implementation of an investment project. Projects will follow different timelines due to their specificities and problems encountered. Nevertheless, the timeline selected will provide a good plan for the average duration and stages of implementation.</i></p>
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- Allocate sufficient time for procurement procedures, not only mandatory minimum periods for publication.
- Ensure that the procurement plan and procedures are tailored to the required expertise following the principle of 'one expertise, one contract'.
- Clearly describe the procurement procedures in the narrative text box.
- Ensure that the planned activities of the Action are logically sequenced and can be realistically implemented in the foreseen period.
- Complete this section in cooperation with the LFI.

Type of contract	Procurement		Implementation	
	Expected date of publishing tender [Q/YYYY]	Expected date of contract signature [Q/YYYY]	Expected start date [Q/YYYY]	Expected completion date [Q/YYYY]
Technical assistance for project management <i>[if applicable]</i>	[insert date]	[insert date]	[insert date]	[insert date]
Technical assistance for supervision of construction	[insert date]	[insert date]	[insert date]	[insert date]
Works contract	[insert date]	[insert date]	[insert date]	[insert date]
Supply contract <i>[if applicable]</i>	[insert date]	[insert date]	[insert date]	[insert date]

31	Monitoring, reporting and evaluation	<p>Complete this section in cooperation with LFI. This section must be completed following the narrative and the result framework provided in Annex 2. Please describe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The performance and result monitoring arrangements specific to the Project. Indicate the LFI mechanisms for regular and systemic monitoring, review, and evaluation of progress on the result framework indicators. • The arrangements to inform the indicators included in the Result Framework (Annex 2) about progress towards achieving the results. • The permanent system put in place by the LFI for monitoring the Action and regular reporting via reports and OPSYS. • The arrangements and quality assurance for data collection from downstream partners, where relevant – including data disaggregation (i.e. by sex, gender, age, rural/urban, income/poverty, disability, etc.) and the extent to which the Action considers the human-rights based approach and contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment. • The environment and social management plan integrated into the monitoring, reporting and evaluation system.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practices during the Project's preparation and implementation phases to ensure effective cooperation with the EU Delegation and the EU Headquarters. <p>Main pre-conditions</p> <p>If identified, indicate pre-conditions and conditions applicable to the WBIF contribution to the Project (e.g. loan conditions with impact on project implementation/schedule/payments; conditions on implementation/pre-financing disbursement if requested by the WBIF Operational Board).</p>
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32	Visibility	<p>Outline how the project will meet the EU visibility requirements for external actions, namely "Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions", which are available at https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/knowledge-hub/communicating-and-raising-eu-visibility-guidance-external-actions_en.</p> <p>In line with requirements set out in the 2022 "Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions", implementing partners have a general obligation to acknowledge the origin and ensure the visibility of any EU funding received. The costs associated with ensuring EU visibility (emblem and funding statement) count as eligible costs and should be factored into the budget under the relevant activity to which they relate.</p> <p>Beyond ensuring EU visibility by prominently featuring the EU emblem and funding statement on any material and activity which relates to the Project, implementing partners are not required to undertake communication activities. Thus, implementing partners are not required to include a specific budget and communication and visibility plan in the application form. However, the implementing partners will ensure that the EU is regularly informed sufficiently in advance of any planned communication activity directly related to the Project, particularly those related to key implementation milestones. Whenever requested by the EU, the recipients of EU funding should support the EU's communication actions (e.g. by providing content or supporting access to the Project for campaigns or media actions managed by the EU).</p> <p>The WBIF Communication and Visibility Plan and Guidelines provide further details on the roles and responsibilities of the WBIF's main stakeholders.</p>
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33	Issues to be clarified before WBIF grant approval	<p>Describe all the open issues that must be assessed before the WBIF approves the Project.</p> <p>Include horizontal conditionalities associated with IPA (e.g. adopted national sector strategy) and specific commitments for implementing the Project (e.g. land planning issues).</p>
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	<p>Contacts</p> <p>Provide contact details for the LFI, representative of the Beneficiary's authority, reference person in the EU Delegation, co-financier(s), private partner (if applicable), taking into account any restrictions imposed by banking regulations, confidentiality and compliance issues, etc.</p> <p>The drafters of this section (provision of personal data below) confirm that the below listed individuals are aware of the European Commission's data protection rules, and have seen and are aware of the applicable privacy statement available at this link (/ https://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register/detail/DPR-EC-02847.2).</p>				
34	Institution	Contact person	Function	Phone	Email
	Lead Financial Institution				
	Beneficiary authority				
	EU Delegation				
	Co-financier(s)				
	Private partner(s)				

35	Date of submission by the NIPAC	<i>This section is filled in automatically in MIS.</i>	NIPAC Details	<i>This section is filled in automatically in MIS.</i>
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Annex 2: Result Framework template

Please delete this box after filling in the section below

The Result Framework must contain, as an absolute minimum, the **4 mandatory cross-sectoral indicators** plus those relevant mandatory and applicable Impact(s), Outcomes and Outputs per sector of intervention which can be found in the Excel table **EFSD+ ReMF 2023 - WBIF selection_Ver 2025_corr.xlsx**. It constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

- This completed Result Framework (e.g. including baselines/targets) must be presented as an annex to the application form when the application is submitted via the WBIF MIS. This annex must be uploaded to the system as a separate document (a Word or PFD file).
 - Available in the WBIF MIS Library (<https://mis2.wbif.eu/Library>), under the “WBIF Indicators & RF Templates” tab are: (i) the **Result Framework Templates by sector**, including relevant indicators and ready for use; and (ii) the WBIF indicators list “EFSD+ ReMF 2023 - WBIF selection_Ver 2025_corr.xlsx”.
- In line with OECD/DAC terminology, the term ‘results’ is understood to cover Outputs, Outcomes (Specific Objectives) and Impact(s) (Overall Objective(s)). The Result Framework for WBIF projects is limited to outputs and outcomes.
- How to develop the Results chain column:

The Indicative Result Framework should include all mandatory and relevant Outcomes and Outputs for each sector of intervention.

Outcome(s)	Definition: An Outcome is a short to medium-term change in the behaviour of the target groups and/or effects on the political, social, economic and/or environmental areas targeted by EU action – the action will contribute to change at this level (it is under its influence but not direct control).
	How many? There can be both short- and medium-term outcomes. Please limit the number of Outcome(s) to 2-3 at most.
	Please use past participle for the formulation (enhanced, increased, improved, adopted...) Please avoid using causal links (‘by’, ‘in order to’...)
Outputs	Definition: Outputs are direct deliverables or benefits of activities under the direct control of the action
	Please use past participle for the formulation (strengthened, increased, improved...)
	Outputs are NOT activities.

- How to draft Indicators:
- **Please select your indicators from the Excel table “EFSD+ ReMF 2023 - WBIF selection_Ver 2025_corr.xlsx”. Please use indicators that are most relevant and pertinent.**
 - Please include at least one indicator for each result. Indicators should be formulated to measure progress towards the relevant result.
 - Indicators should be numbered so that they can be linked to the results they measure (see example in the Result Framework below).
 - Indicators must start with a unit of measure, either quantitative (‘number of people’, ‘km’, ‘percentage of’, ‘index’) or qualitative (‘level of’, ‘status of’, ‘extent to which’). Formulation of the indicators must be neutral, i.e. not include elements of the target such as ‘increase’, ‘improvement’, ‘better’.
 - Please disaggregate by sex, age and disability status when referring to and counting individuals, by urban/rural location, or any other relevant disaggregation reflecting the mainstreaming issues when relevant and possible.
 - Each indicator must have one reliable and accessible source of data. In some cases, more than one source of data per indicator may be needed.
 - Baselines and targets are mandatory and must always be included.
 - Avoid repeating indicators for different results.
 - Please ensure that indicators relevant to the action are used.

- External assumptions

- Assumptions are external necessary and positive conditions – not under intervention management or entity control – that must hold for the result chain to be valid. They should be formulated based on the context analysis and the risk analysis.

Results	Results chain: Main expected results	Indicators [At least one indicator per expected result]	Unit of measure	Baselines (values and years)	Current values (Applicable at reporting stage)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Outcome 1	1 (past tense)	1.1 1.2	1.1 1.2	1.1 1.2	1.1 1.2	1.1 1.2	1.1 1.2	
Outcome 2	2 (past tense)	2.1 2.2	2.1 2.2	2.1 2.2	2.1 2.1	2.1 2.2	2.1 2.2	
	...							
Output 1 related to Outcome 1	1.1 (past tense)	1.1.1 1.1.2	1.1.1 1.1.2	1.1.1 1.1.2	1.1.1 1.1.2	1.1.1 1.1.2	1.1.1 1.1.2	
Output 2 related to Outcome 1 [and 2, 3... if applicable]	1.2 (past tense)	1.2.1 1.2.2	1.2.1 1.2.2	1.2.1 1.2.2	1.2.1 1.2.2	1.2.1 1.2.2	1.2.1 1.2.2	
Output 1 related to Outcome 2	2.1 (past tense)	2.1.1 2.1.2	2.1.1 2.1.2	2.1.1 2.1.2	2.1.1 2.1.2	2.1.1 2.1.2	2.1.1 2.1.2	
Output 2 related to Outcome 2	2.2 (past tense)	2.2.1 2.2.2	2.2.1 2.2.2	2.2.1 2.2.2	2.2.1 2.2.2	2.2.1 2.2.2	2.2.1 2.2.2	
	...							

ASSESSMENT

RESULT OF THE SCREENING PHASE

	To be filled by the Commission/ task manager after screening	
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RESULT OF THE ASSESSMENT PHASE

	To be filled by the Lead Financial Institution after the assessment process	
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RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WBIF PROJECT FINANCIERS GROUP

	To be filled by the WBIF Secretariat after the PFG meeting	
--	--	--

FINAL ENDORSEMENT BY THE LEAD FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

	To be filled by the Lead Financial Institution before the application is recommended for approval, confirming the readiness of the Action for submission to the WBIF Operational Board and EWBIF Assembly of Contributors	
--	---	--

DECISION ON THE APPROVAL OF THE WBIF CONTRIBUTION

	To be filled by the WBIF Secretariat, specifying WBIF decision on approval, relevant comments on the substance of the WBIF contribution, and conditions on approval.	
--	--	--

PAYMENT OF THE WBIF CONTRIBUTION FROM THE JOINT FUND

SIGNATORY OF THE LEAD FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

To be filled by the Lead Financial Institution and specifying Name, Title and Date, and the terms for the transfer of the WBIF contribution by the EBRD in accordance with Art 5.03 of the General Conditions of the EWBJF.					
	WBIF contribution amount approved by WBIF				Insert the - WBIF contribution amount approved by WBIF.
	Start date of activities financed by the WBIF contribution ⁸				
	Final date of operational implementation of the Action [as per Contribution Arrangement]				Insert the completion date of all activities financed by the WBIF contribution.
	Payment schedule	Payment	Amount EUR	Date (month/year)	The first payment will be made from the EWBJF within 60 days of receipt of a compliant payment request. Please indicate the amount of the first payment and subsequent payments if paid in instalments. Any changes to the payment schedule should be communicated to the EBRD.
1 st payment					
2 nd payment					
3 rd payment					
	...				

⁸ This date cannot predate the signature of the Contribution Arrangement. Therefore, it may be adapted prior to the signature of the application form.

SELECTION BY THE WBIF OPERATIONAL BOARD AND CONFIRMATION BY THE EWBIF ASSEMBLY OF CONTRIBUTORS

CONFIRMATION BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Date of advisory opinion by the WBIF Operational Board		
Date of confirmation of the decision to mobilise resources by the EWBIF Assembly of Contributors		
Name	Date	Signature

AMENDMENTS TO THE APPROVED APPLICATION

Addendum / Written Procedure / Notification	Description of amendment	Rationale for change

Annex 3: Screening and Assessment Grid for TA Round 34

Disclaimer: This screening and assessment grid shown below is for information only and may be subject to amendments and updates.

Phase 1 sections are marked in green underlay; Phase 2 sections are marked in blue underlay / ToR relevant sections both in Phases 1 and 2 are marked in red.

1	Public blending	WBIF	2	Grant code	[This section is filled in automatically in MIS.]
3	WBIF approval date	[This section is filled in automatically in MIS.]	4	Flagship	[This section is filled in automatically in MIS.]
5	WBIF intervention area	[This section is filled in automatically in MIS.]	6	CRS-code	[This section is filled in automatically in MIS.]
7	Beneficiary	[This section is filled in automatically in MIS.]			
8	Project title	[This section is filled in automatically in MIS.]	9	Project code	[This section is filled in automatically in MIS.]
10	Action/Grant application title	[This section is filled in automatically in MIS.]			
Summary of Recommendation Screening – Phase 1 [to be filled by all screeners/assessors]		[Select Yes or No] for advancing the application into Phase 2	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>
			[If yes, please list the conditions for advancing the application into Phase 2]		
Summary of Recommendation Assessment – Phase 2 [to be filled by all screeners/assessors]		Recommendation of submission to the OB [Select Yes or No]	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Conditionality for the approval of the Project	[Please list the conditions that should be met before submitting the project to the WBIF Operational Board.]		
General Comments Screening – Phase 1 [Please assess the aspects pertinent to your role]		<p>[Please list the main conclusions, covering the key aspects of the application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The information presented for Phase 1 must be relevant, brief, clear and concise, and should allow a good understanding of the Project and the Action foreseen to be financed from the Grant. ▪ The Project status must be clear and the Project mature for Action foreseen to be financed from the Grant ▪ There should be commitment from the IFI, the status of loan must be clear. ▪ The application must be coherent with WBIF investment priorities, the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans, the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans and the Reform and Growth Facility, and other relevant EU policies/principles. ▪ The Project budget and Grant calculation must be clear and detailed; <p>Overall conclusion and outstanding issues, i.e. clarifications, required corrections and improvements to the information presented for Phase 1 .]</p>			
General Comments – Screening Phase 2 [Please assess the aspects pertinent to your role]		<p>[Please list the main conclusions, covering the key aspects of the application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The screening comments for the information presented during Phase 1 must have been properly addressed.; ▪ The information presented for Phase 2 must be relevant, brief, clear and concise, and should allow a good understanding of the Project and the Action foreseen to be financed from the Grant ▪ The Project budget and Grant calculation must be clear and detailed; ▪ The institutional framework must be appropriate for the implementation of the Project; ▪ Project sustainability, results and risks should be properly defined t <p>Overall conclusion and outstanding issues, i.e. required clarifications, corrections and improvements to the information presented for Phase 1 and Phase 2.]</p>			

Part 2

No.	Section in the grant application form	Screening / Assessment Organisation					
		DG ENEST (incl. geographical teams)	EU Delegation	Line DGs	International / regional organisations	Lead IFI	IFICO IPF
		[Please provide detailed comments, in particular if a specific aspect is unclear or not well addressed in the application form]					
1 – 18	Identity of the project (ToR inputs: sections 2, 7, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the information provided in each section consistent and in coherence with the information filled in the other sections of the grant application form? Are all the sections of the grant application form completed with the information requested therein? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments] [These sections are optional for Line DGs and international / regional organisations.]					
19.	Description of the project (ToR input) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is all the information required in the subsections (19.1, 19.2, 19.3, 19.4 and 19.5.) concisely and coherently presented? Is the description focused on the Project, not the Action for which WBIF grant funding is requested? (information on the Action must be provided in section 28). Are all main (direct and indirect) beneficiaries identified and described (i.e. those who will benefit from the Project's implementation)? Have official sources of information been used and quoted to justify critical problems/primary deficiencies? (see subsection 19.5). 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments]					
19.1	Background and context of the Project (ToR input) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the description concise and clear to allow a good understanding the context of the Project? Is there a clear ownership/support of the Project from national/regional authorities? Are the objectives measurable? Will it be possible to measure their achievement at the end of the Project? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments]					

No.	Section in the grant application form	Screening / Assessment Organisation					
		DG ENEST (incl. geographical teams)	EU Delegation	Line DGs	International / regional organisations	Lead IFI	IFICO IPF
		[Please provide detailed comments, in particular if a specific aspect is unclear or not well addressed in the application form]					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there any synergy with existing complementary operations? 						
19.2	<p>Needs/demand analysis (ToR input)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the need of carrying out the Project well defined and justified? What evidence is there of real demand for the Project? Are the objectives specific enough and do they cover the needs to be satisfied/fulfilled? Have the beneficiaries of the Project been properly identified, described and quantified? Has a summary of the demand analysis, including the predicted demand growth rate, in line with the results of the Cost-Benefit Analysis (if available), been provided? To what extent is the Project expected to provide a significant and sustainable contribution to solving the targeted problem? Is the issue focused enough? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments]					
19.3	<p>Project map (ToR input)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a map been included that clearly shows the project area and its context to allow an understanding of the location of the various facilities of the Project? Is the map in English, easy to read, of high-quality (preferably in colour), and has a clear caption? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments]					
19.4	<p>Description of the Project (ToR input)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the description structured, concise and focused on crucial aspects? In case the Project has several phases or components, have the phases/components already been completed or are under implementation and the subsequent phases/components have been chronologically explained? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments]					

No.	Section in the grant application form	Screening / Assessment Organisation					
		DG ENEST (incl. geographical teams)	EU Delegation	Line DGs	International / regional organisations	Lead IFI	IFICO IPF
		[Please provide detailed comments, in particular if a specific aspect is unclear or not well addressed in the application form]					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the requested support appropriate at this stage and can the sequencing be justified at the time of this application? Are the location, main technical parameters, dimensions and capacity of the foreseen infrastructure defined? 						
19.5	<p>Reference documents (ToR input)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the List all documents used in drafting section 19 (e.g. studies, statistics, strategies, action plan, etc.) been included? Have the documents title, author, issue date, and URL if available online, been specified? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments]					
20.	<p>Indicative project status and planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the provided technical and financial information demonstrate that the Project fulfils the eligibility criteria? Are the planned activities presented in a logical sequence? Is the preparatory time adequately planned for each activity? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments]					
21.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coherence with the EIP, Growth Plan/RGF, EU policies, and adopted national/sectoral/regional strategies (ToR input) Is the Project coherent with the WBIF strategic orientations and intervention areas, the priorities and/or flagships of the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans, the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans and the Reform and Growth Facility, and EU policies/priorities? Is the Project coherent with the IPA III key priorities? Is the project proposal coherent with the National/Regional Development Strategy? Is there compliance with the main national/regional policies in the concerned sector or thematic 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments]					

No.	Section in the grant application form	Screening / Assessment Organisation					
		DG ENEST (incl. geographical teams)	EU Delegation	Line DGs	International / regional organisations	Lead IFI	IFICO IPF
		[Please provide detailed comments, in particular if a specific aspect is unclear or not well addressed in the application form]					
	<p>area? Is the Project listed in the SPP?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there compliance with social standards, including the promotion of gender equality, non-discrimination and equal opportunity? Are there similar planned or ongoing projects in the country/sector? If so, are the coordination mechanisms to be used explained? 						
21.1	<p>Alignment with the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans (ToR input)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is it explained how the Project addresses the policy objectives and investment flagships of the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans and the compliance with the WBIF intervention areas, to justify the WBIF TA support? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments]					
21.2	<p>Alignment with the Growth Plan and the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans (ToR input)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the Project included in the indicative list of priority investments under the RGF? In case the Project is not included in the indicative list of priority investments under the RGF, has a justification, on how the Project addresses the Growth Plan and the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans, been included? In case the Project is not covered by the RGF, has the eligibility of the Project under the WBIF intervention areas been demonstrated? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments]					
21.3	<p>Alignment with Green Agenda objectives (ToR input)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have the Green Agenda pillars, with which the Project is aligned, been indicated? Has a brief justification on how the Project addresses the applicable Green Agenda pillar(s) been provided? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments]					

No.	Section in the grant application form	Screening / Assessment Organisation					
		DG ENEST (incl. geographical teams)	EU Delegation	Line DGs	International / regional organisations	Lead IFI	IFICO IPF
		[Please provide detailed comments, in particular if a specific aspect is unclear or not well addressed in the application form]					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In case the Project is not aligned with any Green Agenda pillars, has a brief justification for WBIF support been included? 						
21.4	<p>Compliance with adopted national/sectoral/regional strategies (ToR input)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have the adopted national/sectoral/regional strategies to which the Project is compliant with been listed? Has the Project's position in the Single Project Pipeline (SPP) been indicated? Has the coordination and complementarity with other related projects financed by WBIF, national IPA, or other donors/ financiers been presented? Has the Project's priority from the point of view of national and regional institutions (e.g., the Transport Community, the Energy Community, and similar bodies) been indicated? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments]					
22.	<p>Consultations before submission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How were the LFI and the EU Delegation involved in the project preparation? What consultations were conducted with national authorities (NIC or similar body), international and/or regional organisations and other stakeholders? Was the underlying investment Project endorsed by the Ministry of Finance? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments] [This section is optional for Line DGs.]					
23.	<p>Institutional framework of the project</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments] [This section is optional for Line DGs.]					
23.1	<p>Description of entities involved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the list of entities involved in the implementation of the Project been included in the section? The Beneficiary(ies) authority(ies) (responsible Ministry(ies) and specific 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments] [This section is optional for Line DGs.]					

No.	Section in the grant application form	Screening / Assessment Organisation					
		DG ENEST (incl. geographical teams)	EU Delegation	Line DGs	International / regional organisations	Lead IFI	IFICO IPF
		[Please provide detailed comments, in particular if a specific aspect is unclear or not well addressed in the application form]					
	<p>department(s)) should be nominated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the beneficiary which is foreseen to obtain the construction permit(s) for the Project been nominated? Has the Implementing agency (or equivalent) been nominated? Has the Project Management Unit (PMU)/Project Implementation Unit (PIU) or equivalent been nominated? In case of involvement of a privately-owned company, has the contractual structure (e.g. concession, private-public partnerships) been defined and explained? 						
23.2	<p>Organisational set-up (ToR input)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the organisational set-up, the implementation scheme and financial structure clear? Does the proposed core team of the Beneficiary have adequate experience for managing the Project? Are the management structures and procedures clear, transparent and fair? Are the management structures appropriate to the Project's size, duration and needs? Are the roles of the institutions involved in the Project clearly defined? Are the institutional aspects of the Project's implementation duly described. Has a chart illustrating the institutional framework of the Project been included? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially					
		[comments] [This section is optional for Line DGs.]					
24.	<p>Project budget and financing plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the indicative budget and the financing plan sufficiently detailed? Are the costs included in the budget realistic and acceptable? Are any of the costs excessive? Are they justified in the application? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially					
		[comments] [This section is optional for Line DGs.]					
		[comments] [These sections are optional for Line DGs and international / regional organisations.]					

No.	Section in the grant application form	Screening / Assessment Organisation					
		DG ENEST (incl. geographical teams)	EU Delegation	Line DGs	International / regional organisations	Lead IFI	IFICO IPF
		[Please provide detailed comments, in particular if a specific aspect is unclear or not well addressed in the application form]					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the project financing plan present the appropriate mix of funding and leverage between loans and grants? Is the financing plan well described, including all the sources of funds identified? 						
25.	Project sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the project considered its environmental implications so that the negative impacts are either avoided or mitigated during its lifetime? Is the economic and financial viability sufficiently substantiated and justified? What measures are foreseen to achieve sustainability? Has the Project incorporated mechanisms that guarantee equitable access to and distribution of the project benefits on a continuous basis? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments]					
26.	Risk assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the mitigation measures for the identified risks sufficient? Are there any additional risks that are not identified in the application? If so, please enumerate. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments]					
27.	Addressing climate mitigation and adaptation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the Project's contribution to climate change mitigation/adaptation clearly demonstrated? Was the LFI involved in allocating the Rio Markers? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments] [This section is optional for Line DGs and international/regional organisations.]					
28.	Scope of work and results for the TA grant activities (the Action):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments]					
28.1	Summary of the scope of work and results for TA grant activities (the Action) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the Action properly justified and fulfilling the eligibility criteria. Is the relevant information presented briefly, clearly and does it allow a good understanding of the Action at the first reading? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments]					

No.	Section in the grant application form	Screening / Assessment Organisation					
		DG ENEST (incl. geographical teams)	EU Delegation	Line DGs	International / regional organisations	Lead IFI	IFICO IPF
		[Please provide detailed comments, in particular if a specific aspect is unclear or not well addressed in the application form]					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the scope of work of the TA activities foreseen to be financed by the WBIF grant been precisely defined? Are the deliverables of the Action, their purpose together with a summary of their content presented? Are all activities foreseen to be financed by the WBIF grant consistently and adequately budgeted and justified in section 29? 						
28.2	<p>Detailed scope of work and results for TA grant activities (the Action) (ToR input)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the information presented in general (1) following the WBIF Guidelines (2) good enough quality to be included in the ToR, (3) allow for efficient monitoring of the implementation of the Action, and (4) sufficient for review and approval of the (draft) deliverables? Are the objective, purpose and expected results of the TA activities precisely described? Have the deliverables, to be developed by the Action, been clearly defined, and have the summaries of their content been presented? Are the critical risks associated with the implementation of the Action clearly described and the appropriate mitigation measures detailed? Are the standards, norms, regulations and guidelines applicable to the activities presented in detail? Are the requirements of the national laws, EU and Financial Institutions presented for all deliverables? Is there a description of the differences between the national standards, legal provisions and the EU/IFIs 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially					
		[comments]					

No.	Section in the grant application form	Screening / Assessment Organisation					
		DG ENEST (incl. geographical teams)	EU Delegation	Line DGs	International / regional organisations	Lead IFI	IFICO IPF
		[Please provide detailed comments, in particular if a specific aspect is unclear or not well addressed in the application form]					
	<p>requirements and how these will be addressed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Are the required surveys clearly described, and the correspondent cost estimate accurately defined? ▪ Are the reporting procedures and requirements presented, together with the review and approval process, especially regarding the national requirements? ▪ Have the key experts and the required qualifications been presented and are the indicative number of working days specified for the experts? <p>Are the costs of activities foreseen to be financed by the WBIF grant clearly justified and consistently budgeted in section 29, and in correlation with subsection 28.1?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a PPP option analysis been elaborated, and have the associated risks been analysed? • Have the main cornerstones, opportunities and limitations of a potential PPP approach been detailed? • If a PPP option analysis will/has not been elaborated, has an adequate justification been provided? 						
29.	<p>WBIF Grant amount calculation and justification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is the WBIF grant amount accurately defined? ▪ Have the activities and their corresponding amounts been listed in coherence with section 28? ▪ Is detailed information provided on the calculation of the WBIF grant (previous technical studies, standards of costs, similar projects, market costs, assumptions made from good practices in the sector) to demonstrate that the costs are realistic and justified? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments] [This section is optional for Line DGs and international/regional organisations.]					

No.	Section in the grant application form	Screening / Assessment Organisation					
		DG ENEST (incl. geographical teams)	EU Delegation	Line DGs	International / regional organisations	Lead IFI	IFICO IPF
		[Please provide detailed comments, in particular if a specific aspect is unclear or not well addressed in the application form]					
30.	Additionality of the WBIF grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Are the expected impact and results of the Project, and more specifically of the WBIF grant contribution, clearly defined for the types of additionalities identified in the application form? ▪ Is it explained why the proposed WBIF grant funding is necessary for the Project? ▪ Could the Project go ahead without the WBIF grant? ▪ Is the positive impact of the WBIF grant relevant and well justified? ▪ Is the impact on gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination clearly demonstrated? If the Action does not contribute to gender equality and/or equal opportunities & non-discrimination, is the justification reasonable and convincing? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially					[comments] [This section is optional for international / regional organisations.]
31.	Indicative calendar of the Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially					[comments]
31.1	Indicative calendar of the Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Are the planned activities associated with the Action realistically implementable within the foreseen period? ▪ Are the main activities presented in their logical time sequence? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially					[comments] [This section is optional for international / regional organisations.]
31.2	Detailed planning of TA activities (ToR input) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Are the activities sufficiently detailed to reflect the foreseen implementation of the Action? ▪ Is the duration of the activities adapted to the complexity of the operations to be developed? ▪ Is the sequencing of the activities realistic and logical? ▪ Are the durations related to obtaining the administrative 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially					[comments] [This section is optional for international / regional organisations.] [comments]

No.	Section in the grant application form	Screening / Assessment Organisation					
		DG ENEST (incl. geographical teams)	EU Delegation	Line DGs	International / regional organisations	Lead IFI	IFICO IPF
		[Please provide detailed comments, in particular if a specific aspect is unclear or not well addressed in the application form]					
	authorisations, the checking and approval of the technical documents included in the detailed planning?						
32.	Monitoring, reporting and evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the monitoring, reporting and evaluation clearly described and sufficient? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially					
		[comments] [This section is optional for Line DGs and international / regional organisations.]					
33.	Visibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do the visibility measures comply with the EU requirements, and do they provide sufficient and clear visibility? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially					
		[comments] [This section is optional for Line DGs and international / regional organisations.]					
34.	Issues to be clarified before WBIF grant approval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the issues (if any) clear? Is a timeline for their resolution indicated? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially					
		[comments] [comments]					
Annex 1	Result framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the indicators sufficiently reflecting the Action's expected outputs and intended outcomes? Are the expected results in line with the objectives of the Action? Are the outputs and outcomes clearly defined, realistic (achievable) and quantified? Are the indicators defined accurately (description, measurement, baseline, and target value)? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially					
		[comments]					

Screening conclusion

[Filled in by DG ENEST Programme Managers based on comments provided by screening organisations, including clarifications, corrections and/or improvements to the application form that need to be resolved during the assessment.]

Review and acceptance by the European Commission of changes made to the grant application form during the assessment

[European Commission's review and acceptance of changes made to the application form against screening conclusion. Filled in by DG ENEST Programme Managers based on the application form revised during the assessment and the LFI's assessment of the application.]

Annex 4: Screening and assessment grid for INV Round 12

Part 1

1	Blending facility	WBIF	2	Grant code	[This section is filled in automatically in MIS.]	
3	WBIF approval date	[This section is filled in automatically in MIS.]	4	Flagship	[This section is filled in automatically in MIS.]	
5	WBIF intervention area	[This section is filled in automatically in MIS.]	6	CRS-code	[This section is filled in automatically in MIS.]	
7	Beneficiary	[This section is filled in automatically in MIS.]				
8	Project title	[This section is filled in automatically in MIS.]	9	Project code	[This section is filled in automatically in MIS.]	
Summary of recommendation [to be filled by all screeners/assessors]		Recommendation of submission for approval [Select Yes or No]			Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Conditionality for the approval of the project	[Please list the conditions that should be met before submitting the project to the WBIF Operational Board.]			
General comments [please assess the aspects pertinent to your role]		[Please summarise the main conclusions, covering the key aspects of the application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant information is clear and concise and allows a good understanding of the project at the first reading of the application; Project status/maturity; IFI commitment/agreement, including the status of the loan; Coherence with WBIF investment priorities, the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans, , other EU policies/principles; Budgetary issues, especially related to the calculation of the WBIF contribution; Institutional aspects; Other issues, such as sustainability, results indicators, risks associated with the project; Overall conclusion and outstanding issues, i.e. clarifications, corrections and improvements to the application form.] 				

Part 2

Section	Title of section in the application form	Screening / Assessment Organisation					
		DG ENEST (incl. geographical teams)	EU Delegation	Line DGs	International / regional organisations	Lead IFI	IFICO IPF
		[Please provide detailed comments, in particular if aspects are unclear or not well addressed in the application form.]					
1 – 15	Identity of the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the information provided in each section consistent and coherent with the other sections of the application form? Are all sections completed with the required information? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments] [These sections are optional for Line DGs and international / regional organisations.]					
16	Description of the Project and Action:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially					

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		DG ENEST (incl. geographical teams)	EU Delegation	Line DGs	International / regional organisations	Lead IFI	IFICO IPF
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the descriptions concise and clear to allow a good understanding of the Project and Action? • Is the need to carry out the Project well defined and justified? • To what extent is the Project expected to provide a significant and sustainable contribution to solving targeted problem(s)? Are targeted problems duly described? • Are the market failures well identified and quantified? Is the financial gap well justified? Is there insufficient funding from market sources? • Are the main final beneficiaries of the Project identified? • Are the objectives specific enough to address the identified needs? • Are the objectives measurable? Will it be possible to measure their achievement at the end of the Project? • Are the outcomes of the Action clearly defined, realistic (achievable) and quantified? • Is there synergy with existing complementary operations? • Are other relevant socio-economic implications, human rights implications, and consistency with the 'Do no significant harm' principle covered? • Does the project address gender equality issues in the country and contribute to government policies and programmes to support gender equality and women's empowerment? 	[Please provide detailed comments, in particular if aspects are unclear or not well addressed in the application form.] [comments]					
17	Indicative project status and planning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the technical and financial status of the Project fulfil the maturity criteria? • Are the urgency and the maturity of the WBIF contribution consistent with the calendar of the Project? • How fast will the Project be implemented? Will implementation be split into several stages/phases? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments]					
18	Coherence with WBIF objectives, EU policies, adopted national and sectoral strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the project proposal coherent with the WBIF strategic orientations and intervention areas, the priorities and/or flagships of the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans, EU policies? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments]					

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		DG ENEST (incl. geographical teams)	EU Delegation	Line DGs	International / regional organisations	Lead IFI	IFICO IPF
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the Project coherent with the IPA III key priorities? Is the Project compliant with the main national/regional policies in the concerned sector or thematic area? Is the Project aligned with national plans and reform efforts? Is there clear complementarity/synergy with related EU programmes and/or initiatives, other donor initiatives? Is the Project coherent with the national/regional development strategy? Does the Project meet relevant social standards, including promotion of gender equality, non-discrimination and equal opportunity? Are there similar planned or ongoing projects in the country/sector? If so, are the coordination mechanisms to be used explained? Is there clear ownership/support of the Project by national/regional authorities? 	[Please provide detailed comments, in particular if aspects are unclear or not well addressed in the application form.]					
19	Consultations before submission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How were the LFI and EU Delegation involved in project preparation? What consultations were conducted with national authorities (NIC or similar structure), international/regional organisations and other stakeholders? Have the confirmation letter from the Ministry of Finance and the NIPAC been provided? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments] [This section is optional for Line DGs.]					
20	Institutional framework of the Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the organisational set-up, the implementation scheme and the financial structure clear? Does the proposed core team of the Beneficiary have adequate experience for managing the Project? Are the management structures appropriate to the Project's size, duration and needs? Are the management structures and procedures clear, transparent and fair? Are the administrative and financial management procedures explained and adequate? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments] [This section is optional for Line DGs.]					
21	Project budget and financing plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the indicative budget and financing plan sufficiently detailed? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments] [This section is optional for Line DGs.]					

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		DG ENEST (incl. geographical teams)	EU Delegation	Line DGs	International / regional organisations	Lead IFI	IFICO IPF
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the costs included in the budget realistic and acceptable? Are any of the costs excessive? Are they justified in the application? Does the project financing plan present the appropriate mix of funding and leverage between loans and grants? Is the financing plan well described? Are all the sources of funds identified? Is it specified how each source of funds contribute (grants, loans, etc.)? 	[Please provide detailed comments, in particular if aspects are unclear or not well addressed in the application form.]					
22	Fiscal space and debt sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is public debt described in absolute terms and relative to GDP, recent trajectory and expected medium term trajectory, public debt levels vs debt ceiling if applicable? How does the sovereign or sub-sovereign loan/guarantee attached to the project affect debt sustainability? Are concessionally and debt sustainability requirements well described? Does the Project represent a sufficient priority that the beneficiary country's fiscal space should be used for it, as opposed to other investments? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [This section is optional for Line DGs and international / regional organisations.]					
23	Calculation of the WBIF investment grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the WBIF contribution accurately defined? Are the costs realistic and acceptable? Is the co-financing rate applied correctly? Is the information consistent with sections 21 and 24? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments] [This section is optional for Line DGs and international / regional organisations.]					
24	WBIF grant amount justification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the WBIF contribution sufficiently substantiated and justified? For technical assistance, are the advisory services cost-effective and do not duplicate support from other sources? For investment co-financing, is there a clear explanation of the project-specific co-financing rate applied? Is the justification consistent with section 23? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments] [This section is optional for Line DGs and international / regional organisations.]					
25	Additionality of the WBIF grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the expected impact and results of the Project and, more specifically, of the WBIF contribution, clearly defined 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments] [This section is optional for international / regional organisations.]					

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		DG ENEST (incl. geographical teams)	EU Delegation	Line DGs	International / regional organisations	Lead IFI	IFICO IPF
		[Please provide detailed comments, in particular if aspects are unclear or not well addressed in the application form.]					
	<p>for the types of additionalities identified in the application form?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is the proposed WBIF contribution necessary for the Project? • Could the Project go ahead without the WBIF contribution? • Is the positive impact relevant and well justified? • Is the impact on gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination clearly demonstrated? If the Action does not contribute to gender equality and/or equal opportunities and non-discrimination, is the justification reasonable and convincing? • Are safeguards in place to ensure that the benefit of the WBIF contribution is transferred to the final (end) beneficiaries? Are the benefits for end-beneficiaries clearly explained (e.g. lower overall cost of financing the Project, etc.)? 						
26	<p>Leverage ratios</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the proposed financial leverages? • Are the proposed leverages sufficient and coherent? • How does it compare to other EU blending interventions in the sector? • Are fees correctly included in the ratio calculations? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially					
		<p>[comments]</p> <p>[This section is optional for EU Delegations, Line DGs and international / regional organisations.]</p>					
27	<p>Project sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the application, will the Project be sustainable when the WBIF contribution expires? • Is the economic and financial viability sufficiently substantiated and justified? • What measures are foreseen to achieve sustainability? • Are the environmental implications of the Project taken into account so that negative impacts on the environment are either avoided or mitigated during the life of the Project? • Does the Project incorporate mechanisms that guarantee equitable access to and distribution of the Project's benefits on a continuous basis? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially					
		<p>[comments]</p>					
28	<p>Risk assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the mitigation measures for the identified risks sufficient? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially					
		<p>[comments]</p>					

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		DG ENEST (incl. geographical teams)	EU Delegation	Line DGs	International / regional organisations	Lead IFI	IFICO IPF
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there additional risks which are not identified in the application? Please enumerate. 	[Please provide detailed comments, in particular if aspects are unclear or not well addressed in the application form.]					
29	Addressing climate mitigation and adaptation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the contribution of the Project to climate change mitigation and/or adaptation clearly demonstrated? Have basic environmental standards been incorporated into the design of the Project? Was the LFI involved in the allocation of the Rio Markers? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [This section is optional for EU Delegations and international/regional organisations.]					
30	Indicative calendar of the Action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the procurement procedures to be used for the Project clear in the application? Do they allow to complete the Project within the proposed time and resources? Are these procedures accepted to be equivalent to those of the EC? Can the activities of the Action be implemented in the estimated period? Are they logically sequenced? Is each activity planned to be implemented within a suitable period? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments]					
31	Monitoring, reporting and evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the monitoring, reporting and evaluation clearly described and sufficient? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments] [This section is optional for Line DGs and international/regional organisations.]					
32	Visibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do the visibility activities comply with the EU requirements, and do they provide sufficient and clear visibility? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments] [This section is optional for Line DGs and international/regional organisations.]					
33	Issues to be clarified before WBIF grant approval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the issues (if any) clear? Is a timeline for their resolution indicated? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments]					
Annex 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the information provided in this annex consistent with that filled in the application form? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments]					
Annex 2	Result framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the indicators sufficiently reflecting the expected outputs and the intended outcomes of the Project? Are the expected results in line with the objectives of the Project? Are the outcomes clearly defined, realistic (achievable) and quantified? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially [comments]					

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		DG ENEST (incl. geographical teams)	EU Delegation	Line DGs	International / regional organisations	Lead IFI	IFICO IPF
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the indicators accurately defined (description, measurement, baseline and target values)? • Does the application include credible baselines, targets and sources of verification? • Will data be disaggregated by sex and age? 	[Please provide detailed comments, in particular if aspects are unclear or not well addressed in the application form.]					

Screening conclusion
Filled in by DG ENEST Programme Managers based on comments provided by screening organisations, including clarifications, corrections and/or improvements to the application form that need to be resolved during the assessment.

Review and acceptance by the European Commission of changes made to the grant application form during the assessment
European Commission's review and acceptance of changes made to the application form against screening conclusion. Filled in by DG ENEST Programme Managers based on the application form revised during the assessment and the LFI's assessment of the application.

Glossary

Action: means a part of a Project or a Programme proposed for funding by the WBIF grant contribution.

Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans (EIP): is a comprehensive plan adopted by the European Commission in 2020, which aims to spur the long-term economic recovery of the region, support a green and digital transition, and foster regional integration and convergence with the European Union.

Grant: means the grant amount approved for the financing of each Action from the WBIF resources. It is usually awarded following a call for proposals.

Application Form: is the completed application form for a Project or Programme that the applicants must submit in the prescribed form of the applicable application form template.

Guidelines for the Implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans: are guidelines presented by the European Commission in parallel to the EIP to support the region and adopted at the Western Balkans Summit in Sofia in November 2020. It foresees actions around five pillars: (i) climate action, including decarbonisation, energy and mobility, (ii) circular economy, addressing in particular waste, recycling, sustainable production and efficient use of resources, (iii) biodiversity, aiming to protect and restore the natural wealth of the region, (iv) fighting air, water and soil pollution, and (v) sustainable food systems and rural areas. Digitalisation is a key enabler for the above five pillars in line with the concept of the dual green and digital transition.

Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA): is the means by which the EU has been supporting reforms in the enlargement region with financial and technical assistance since 2007. IPA funds build up the capacities of the beneficiaries throughout the accession process.

Investment grant: means a financial donation (non-repayable grant) awarded by the WBIF to a Beneficiary to finance part of the costs for works and supplies of a specific investment project or programme intended to help achieve policy objectives. It is expressed by the co-financing rate, which is subject to a maximum threshold.

Investment Flagships: these are the ten investment flagships identified in the EIP.

Lead Financial Institution (LFI): means each WBIF Partner Financial Organisation approved as a “lead financial institution” for an Action by the Operational Board, and thus eligible to implement Actions.

MIS: means the management information system administered by the WBIF Secretariat, which, among others, is the platform for submitting grant application forms.

National Investment Committee (NIC): is the national decision-making body, usually chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance, that endorses the Single Project Pipeline.

National IPA Coordinator (NIPAC): represents the Beneficiaries in WBIF and is the main counterpart of the European Commission for the overall programming coordination, monitoring of implementation, evaluation and reporting of IPA assistance, including the coordination within the IPA beneficiary’s administration and with other donors.

Operational Board: For blending operations, the Operational Board is responsible for the selection of eligible projects for WBIF support. Its members are the European Commission, the EU Member States, the WBIF Partner Financial Organisations and Bilateral Donors.

Project: means an overall investment proposed for WBIF grant funding in a call for proposals.

Programme: means an overall investment programme containing multiple activities/instruments proposed for financing selected for financing under the WBIF by the Operational Board of the WBIF.

Project Financiers’ Group (PFG): provides a single-entry point for requests for blending operations. The PFG is responsible for technical preparatory work, including screening and assessing project proposals for grant funding. It comprises representatives of the European Commission, the Bilateral Donors and the Partner Financial Organisations of the WBIF.

WBIF Intervention Areas: are overarching investment areas stemming from the EIP and supported by WBIF blending contributions and budgetary guarantees. They are defined in the [WBIF Strategic Orientations 2021-2027](#) and the WBIF Rules of Procedure and comprise 1) sustainable transport, 2) clean energy, 3) environment & climate, 4) digital future, 5) competitiveness of the private sector, and 6) human capital development.