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Western Balkans Investment Framework WBIF
BUILDING THE EUROPEAN FUTURE TOGETHER
Global Gateway

WBIF INV Round 13 Guidelines for Applicants

Corrigendum



Contents

Introduction 3
1. Eligibility provisions 4
1.1 Geographical coverage 4
1.2 Eligible entities for WBIF support 4
1.3 Eligibility criteria 4
1.4 Additional eligibility conditions 8
1.5 Maximum co-financing rates for WBIF contribution 8
2. Requirements for the submission of application forms 9
Annex 1: Application form for INV Round 13A 10
Annex 2: WBIF communication & visibility compliance checklist (self-assessment) 44
Annex 3: Screening and assessment grid for INV Round 13A 45
Glossary 54

Introduction

The European Commission and the Bilateral Donors launched a WBIF call for applications to co-finance public sector investment projects—INV Round 13—on 24 April 2026. Funding for this call is provided by the **Reform and Growth Facility (RGF)**, established under the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans.

For this call, applications for WBIF contribution support under the RGF, which should adhere to the conditions established under the Western Balkans Facility Regulation 2024/1449 of 14 May 2024, are eligible in the following intervention areas: sustainable transport, clean energy, digital future, and human capital development.

Applications may be submitted on a rolling basis, subject to the availability of funds under the RGF. Submissions are permitted only following the release of funds, as specified in the Commission Financing Decisions for each RGF reporting period. The screening and approval process will be run individually for each application, unless more applications are received within a reasonably (short) time window, then these may be bundled into one screening and assessment process. Approvals will be conducted through written procedures, or physical meetings.

INV Round 13 is open for submissions until 31 December 2027.

Below is the timeframe of the necessary steps since pre-notification until opinion of the Operational Board:

Phase, action	Tentative time frame
Launch of the call for proposals	24 April 2026
Pre-notification	At any time
Submission	Up to 2 weeks after pre-notification
Endorsement	Up to 1 week after submission
Screening (until)	Up to 2 weeks
1st Paris Group	Approx. 1 week after screening
Assessment (until)	(If positively screened) Up to 2 weeks after 1st Paris Group
2nd Paris Group	Approx. 1 week after assessment
Project Financiers' Group	Written Procedure, or physical meeting
Operational Board	

The primary objective of these guidelines is to support beneficiaries and financial institutions in preparing applications for this call. The document sets out the eligibility criteria for project proposals, describes the submission process, and specifies the information required for applications to the WBIF Project Financiers' Group.

The guidelines are structured in two chapters: (1) Eligibility provisions, and (2) Requirements for project proposals. The prescribed application form, together with detailed instructions for its completion, is provided in Annex 1.

To further assist applicants, the screening and assessment grid—reflecting the assessment process conducted by the WBIF Project Financiers' Group—is included in Annex 3. This tool is intended to help applicants ensure their submissions are complete and fully meet all relevant requirements.

1. Eligibility provisions

1.1 Geographical coverage

Projects may be eligible for financing under the WBIF if they will be implemented for the benefit of one or more of the following Beneficiaries: the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia, and the Republic of Serbia.

The legal entity benefiting from a public sector WBIF contribution to investments shall be registered within a Beneficiary. For transnational or regional projects that also involve non-eligible countries, the institution or body in charge of the investment may be based in a non-eligible country, but the support provided through the WBIF will cover only the portion of the investment implemented on the territory of the participating Beneficiary.

1.2 Eligible entities for WBIF support

Public sector projects for financing under the WBIF may benefit (depending on the type of project and/or the intervention area addressed):

(a) public entities;
(b) private entities, such as, for example, without limitation, entities established within the context of public-private partnerships (PPPs), joint ventures or mutual joint ventures; or
(c) other entities with mixed public-private capital,

in each case responsible for the management, construction and provision of public utilities and services.

1.3 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 WBIF contribution support under the RGF must be included in the RGF Indicative List of the beneficiary partners.

For large investment projects proposed for co-financing by the Reform and Growth Facility, the WBIF contribution (up to the limit of the applicable co-financing rates) could be considered in two or more tranches, if the total WBIF contribution required exceeds the amount made available under the RGF release of funds corresponding to this investment call. In these exceptional cases, the Operational Board notes the overall WBIF contribution required but approves only the tranche that can be mobilised under the current call. The guidelines for applicants provide details on how to submit these applications.

Investments to be implemented under a **public-private partnership** approach are strongly encouraged under the current round.

1.3.1 Sustainable transport

Rationale

The Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans set out that significant investment should be directed

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

towards sustainable transport infrastructure in the region. Transport-related measures also feature in the New Growth Plan and 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, as well as measures related to Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) and 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 Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy priorities, the "do no significant harm" principle and the Paris Agreement.

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

In June 2024, the Council of the European Union adopted the revised TEN-T Regulation (EU 2024/1679), which 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 completion deadlines of 2030 and 2040, 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 (TEN-T) according to traffic needs. They should stimulate the development of the comprehensive network and enable EU action to concentrate on the TEN-T 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 measures to make transport greener, more 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 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 serve as frameworks for investment.

Key areas of intervention

- Rehabilitation of existing and construction of new resilient and smart transport infrastructure on the TEN-T Core and Extended Core Railway Network
- Rehabilitation of existing and construction of new resilient and smart transport infrastructure on the TEN-T Core Road Network
- Rehabilitation of existing and construction of new resilient and smart transport infrastructure on the remaining priorities under the EIP Flagships 1, 2 and 3.
- Maritime/inland waterways infrastructure: Inland waterways TEN-T Core Network, port infrastructure
- Terminals/multi-modal hubs
- Rapid urban transit systems

Bilateral Donors can support small-scale investment projects in all the subsectors described above and below without any financial thresholds.

- Railway TEN-T Comprehensive Network, railway stations

- Road TEN-T Comprehensive Network and others
- Inland waterways TEN-T Comprehensive Network
- Coastal protection
- Sustainable urban transport

1.3.2 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, sets out that support for the 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 each economy's Reform Agenda. The integration and decarbonisation of energy markets are the main priorities. This will also consider 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 Balkan partners made commitments under the Energy Community Treaty regarding 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 Balkan partners' Energy and Climate Plans, their Nationally Determined Contribution and ambition to reach climate neutrality by 2050. They shall contribute to mitigating climate change, enhancing the ability to adapt to its adverse effects, and fostering climate resilience. 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 implementing renewable energy policies in the Western Balkans, and investments in renewable energy (conventional solar and wind power plants) have begun to flow in. However, further investments and policy measures to decarbonise energy production and/or consumption shall be key to meeting decarbonisation targets, including avoiding the potentially negative consequences of the CBAM and ensuring a just energy transition. The mobilisation of the private sector would contribute to nascent industrial clean energy ecosystems and could be a regional economic gamechanger. Progress should be made on transposing the new Electricity Integration Package within the Energy Community to ensure full market integration of the Contracting Parties, including the six Western Balkan partners, into the single European electricity market.

Key areas of intervention

- Electricity transmission and storage projects:
    - Where electricity transmission projects can contribute to market integration (between Western Balkan partners and/or with EU Member States), sustainability (integration and transmission of renewable energy) and security of supply.
    - Digitalisation of the energy transmission and distribution networks/systems.
    - Rehabilitation, modernisation and extension of distribution networks with a focus on enabling the absorption of renewables.
    - Energy storage facilities to enable accelerated renewables deployment.
- Rehabilitation of existing hydropower plants, innovative renewable energy solution projects (if not supported through EFSD+ guarantees and proven not to be revenue-generating)
- Energy efficiency measures for infrastructure in the education (from early childhood education to high-level education) and health (hospitals and health centres) sectors

Bilateral Donors can support small-scale investment projects in all the subsectors described above and below without any financial thresholds.

- Transmission of internal electricity transmission lines, if not on the PECI/PMI lists, that significantly contribute to market integration and/or to the integration of RES.
- Energy efficiency of public buildings (excluding PV installation).
- District heating (excluding PV installation).

1.3.3 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 economy. 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

- Ultra-fast and secure broadband (including 5G) for governments, households, businesses, education and health, connections with remote areas, and connections 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)

Bilateral Donors can support small-scale investment projects in all the subsectors described above and below without any financial thresholds.

- e-governance, e-procurement, education, e-health, electronic public services
- project supporting alignment with EU rules related to data protection
- EU practices to mitigate cybersecurity

1.3.4 Infrastructures for human capital development

Rationale

The Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans placed 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

- Investments in building, rehabilitation and/or expansion of infrastructures directly contributing to reforms contained in the Reform Agendas and contributing to unleashing human capital development potential in the Western Balkans. Such investments must be sustainable and comply with clean energy and decarbonisation targets, environmental protection, and disaster resilience.

Bilateral Donors can support small-scale investment projects in all the subsectors described above and below without any financial thresholds.

- Education and skills: Investments contributing to the Economic and Investment Plan Flagship 10 Youth Guarantee; Any other activity in line with IPA III programming framework, EIP
- Social inclusion: Any activity in line with IPA III programming framework, EIP

- Employment: Any activity in line with IPA III programming framework, EIP

1.4 Additional eligibility conditions

The Beneficiary institutions must have an **adequate capacity** to define their investment plans and to procure and implement the project, possibly with specific technical assistance.

The relevant beneficiary entity must demonstrate commitment and project ownership for the whole project duration and ensure that a **Project Implementation Unit** is in place with appropriate skills and relevant experience acceptable to the IFIs.

In addition, a monitoring and coordination structure (e.g. Project Steering Committee) should be in place to effectively monitor progress in the implementation of the project. This structure must include all relevant stakeholders, including the beneficiary entity, the Lead IFI, the Delegation/Office of the EU, etc., and should convene regularly at least twice a year, as well as on an ad-hoc basis whenever significant issues arise.

Project proposals for investment co-financing must be **mature:**

- Only projects that demonstrate that the relevant preparatory work has been completed and is up to date, and for which the **signature of the (first) works contract will occur within 24 months of the approval of the WBIF contribution,** shall be eligible for WBIF support.
- The **detailed design (or the preliminary design for design-build projects)** and the tender documentation (if part of project preparation TA) must be completed and approved by the beneficiary by the time of the WBIF contribution's approval.
- The **ESIA** must be completed and approved by the IFIs at the time of application submission.
- The project's **financing plan** must be in place; the **financing should be confirmed** by co-financiers, and the Beneficiary's Ministry of Finance and the **Lead IFI's project appraisal/loan preparation should be ongoing** at the time of application submission.
- All necessary **approvals or pre-approvals**, as applicable, from beneficiary stakeholders should be obtained by the time the applications are submitted, i.e. **EIA approval** (national EIA positive decision) and **land acquisition** (siting decision "freezing the land" under the project and preventing the granting of approvals for other developments).

Applicants are required to demonstrate the maturity of their project proposals **in Section 16 of the application form**. Additional guidance and detailed completion instructions are provided in the prescribed application form for this call, available in Annex 1 of these guidelines.

For large investment projects to be financed under the Reform and Growth Facility (RGF), the WBIF contribution—subject to the applicable co-financing rate—may be considered in two or more tranches if the total required contribution exceeds the funds available through the current RGF call for proposals. In such exceptional circumstances, the Operational Board will acknowledge the total WBIF contribution required for the project but will approve only the tranche that can be mobilised under the current call. Further guidance on the requirements for such applications is provided in Annex 1 of these guidelines.

1.5 Maximum co-financing rates for WBIF contribution

The maximum co-financing rates are as follows:

Investment windows	max. co-financing rate (%)
Sustainable transport	
Railways (incl. signalling and telecommunications)	50

Investment windows	max. co-financing rate (%)
Roads (incl. digital transport technologies)	40
Rapid urban transit systems	40
Inland waterways and ports	50
Maritime ports	50
Clean energy/energy efficiency	
Energy interconnections, electric power transmission, distribution, and electrification of urban and rural areas	20
Energy supply – innovative renewable energy sources and rehabilitation of hydropower plants, energy storage	up to 30**
Energy efficiency in buildings (including REEP)	30
Digital future	**30**
Human capital	**30**

**WBIF shall provide maximum financial support to projects that either fall under a pilot exercise or offer an innovative approach to renewable energy generation and storage. Otherwise, a 20% co-financing rate shall apply. Conventional wind and solar electricity generation is not eligible for WBIF support under the call.

2. Requirements for the submission of application forms

The applications must be pre-notified and submitted via the WBIF MIS platform by National IPA Coordinators in the prescribed application form and in accordance with the deadlines communicated at the launch of the call for proposals.

Project proposals must be supported by a Lead Financial Institution (LFI), namely the AFD, CEB, EBRD, EIB and KfW.

The application form for INV Round 13 is included in Annex 1 of these guidelines; its editable format is available for download in the WBIF MIS Library under the "GAF Templates" tab. Instructions for completing the application form are embedded in the template.

The applicants must submit a duly completed application form. All sections of the application form must be completed as clearly and concisely as possible, while adhering to the suggested maximum character limits and avoiding repetition.

The applications must be submitted together with an accompanying letter signed by the NIPAC, which confirms the Beneficiary's commitment to the submitted projects, confirms that the Lead Financial Institution has been consulted and is in agreement with the content of the application form, and acknowledges that there is adequate fiscal space for their implementation.

The Beneficiaries shall prepare the project proposals under the supervision of the NIPACs and in close cooperation with the LFI. Consultations and coordination with the EU Delegations must be ensured before the submission of the application.

Annex 1: Application form for INV Round 13A

IDENTITY OF THE PROJECT

1	**Blending facility**	WBIF	**2**	**WBIF contribution code**	*This is the code of the WBIF contribution and is communicated to the NIPAC at pre-notification. For RGF projects where the WBIF contribution is divided into tranches, the code includes the tranche being applied for in this call (e.g. T1, T2). This section is filled in automatically in MIS when the application is submitted.*
3	**WBIF intervention area**	*[select intervention area]* *Select the intervention area addressed by the Project from the drop-down list.*	**4**	**CRS code**	*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.*
5	**Beneficiary**	*[select name]* *Select the name of the Beneficiary from the drop-down list.*			
6	**Project title**	*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 relevant infrastructure and location. For RGF projects where the WBIF contribution is divided into tranches, please also indicate the tranche applied for in this call (e.g. "Development of Bioscience and Technology Campus in Belgrade – Tranche 1").*	**7**	**Project code**	*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.*
8	**Lead Financial Institution**	*[select name]* *Select the name of the Lead Financial Institution (LFI) from the drop-down list.*			
9	**Co-financier(s)**	*[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.*			
10	**Type(s) of WBIF contribution**	INV ☒ TA ☐ *Select the type(s) of WBIF contribution from the available options, i.e.:* • *Investment (INV): It is mandatory and is checked off by default.* • *Technical assistance (TA): It must be selected if the WBIF contribution funds TA activities.* *The types of WBIF contributions are defined as follows:* • *Investment (INV): amount for co-financing works and supplies.* • *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. *The TA does not include activities related to the technical review, checking, and verification of project designs in accordance with 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. These costs fall to the beneficiary as part of its due diligence and project management controls.*		
11	**RGF financing and tranches**	Application for RGF financing *Yes* RGF tranches *Yes* Tranche number *Tranche number* *This section must be completed for projects financed by the RGF.* *Please select "Yes" or "No" from the "Application for RGF financing" drop-down list to indicate whether your application is for a WBIF contribution under the RGF.* *To specify whether the WBIF RGF contribution to the project is divided into two or more tranches, select either 'Yes' or 'No' in the "RGF tranches" drop-down list. For "Yes", please also select the tranche number applied for in this call from the "Tranche number" drop-down list.*		
12	**Total WBIF contribution amount (€)[1]**	**Total amount: [amount]** *This is the WBIF contribution amount with implementation fees. It is the "Total WBIF contribution amount" from section 22.*	Total amount excl. fees:	*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 22.*
			INV amount:	*This is the WBIF contribution amount, exclusive of the implementation fee, for the cost components "Works and supplies" and "Contingencies" from section 22.*
		RGF Commission contribution: [amount] *This is the proportion of the RGF Commission's contribution (the RGF grant component) from the total WBIF contribution indicated above. It is automatically calculated in the MIS using the formula: Total amount × 0.5366666666666670.* *Example for a total WBIF contribution of €3,000,0000.00:* *RGF Commission contribution = € 1,610,000.00 (calculated as €3,000,0000.00 × 0.5366666666666670)*	INV fee:	*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 22.*
		RGF Beneficiary contribution: [amount]	TA amount:	*This is the WBIF contribution amount for the cost component "Technical assistance" without the implementation fee from section 22.*

[1] Jointly co-financed, meaning that the total cost of a project is shared among several entities and the resources are pooled in such a way that it is no longer possible to identify the source of financing for any given activity undertaken as part of the action. Therefore, the Western Balkan beneficiary's contribution to the project is pooled with the Commission funds; it cannot be earmarked separately.

		This is the proportion of the RGF Beneficiary's contribution (the RGF loan component) from the total WBIF contribution indicated above. It is automatically calculated in the MIS using the formula: Total amount × 0.4633333333333330. *Example for a total WBIF contribution of €3,000,0000.00:* *RGF Beneficiary contribution = €1,390,000.00 (calculated as €3,000,0000.00 × 0.4633333333333330)*	TA fee:	*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 22.*
13	**Responsible authority of the Beneficiary**	*Specify the Beneficiary's authority (e.g. Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Energy, etc.) and the relevant departments in charge of the Project within that authority (e.g. Department for International Financial Cooperation, etc.)* *Ensure consistency with section 19 – Institutional framework of the Project.*		
14	**Implementing entity(ies)**	*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.* *Note that in section 19 - Institutional framework of the Project - all the entities involved should be included. In this section, only the entity responsible for implementing the Project should be listed.* *Ensure consistency with section 19 – Institutional framework of the Project.*		

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AND ACTION

15	**Description of the Project and Action** *This section is divided into seven subsections. Please include the required information in the relevant subsection.* *Provide a clear description of the infrastructure project, by component and/or phase if the Project has more than one component and/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 provide a clear outline of the Project's components and/or phases, as well as the Action.* *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.* *(Indicative max 750-1000 words)* • *Complete this section in cooperation with the LFI.* • *Present concisely and coherently the information to understand the Project and the Action for which the WBIF contribution is requested.* • *Ensure that the main direct and indirect beneficiaries (i.e. those who will benefit from the Project) are identified and described.* • *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.*	
	15.1	**Background and context of the Project**

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.

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 to handle 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 the benefits of their use. In contrast, "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 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 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. In contrast, a chemical plant's continued reliance on outdated technology has a negative spillover effect due to the pollutants it releases into the environment, which could be avoided if the company invested in upgrading its equipment.

When making the case for how the proposed action intends to create public goods or manage positive and negative externalities, thereby 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 reference projects or programmes in the beneficiary economy/region/sector (e.g. similar projects carried out in the sector), these projects' benchmarks, and the main lessons learnt.

Project proposals shall explicitly mention any complementarities or coherence with projects supported or planned for support under the IPA National Programmes (for implementation by the EU Delegations or by the Beneficiaries' authorities) and/or other donors' activities, by providing at least a preliminary indication of the type and amount of donor support that the investment project may receive from various sources.

Explain the involvement of the private sector if relevant.

15.2	**Needs/demand analysis (current and forecast)**

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 the critical infrastructure deficiencies and needs that the Project (or project component/phase) will address and bring into compliance with EU standards.

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).

15.3	**Narrative of Results Framework**

Provide the narrative supporting the intervention logic identified in the Result Framework in Annex 2. Note that the ambitions set in this section should be consistent with the outcomes and output levels of the Result Framework. The Result Framework for WBIF projects is limited to outputs and outcomes.

- *Starting from the market failure described in section 15.1, 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 should focus on the intervention logic, not on the activities to be implemented under the Project, which should be described in section 15.5.*

15.4	**Project map**

Include a map that clearly shows the project area and its context to provide a clear understanding of the locations of the various Project facilities. The map should be easy to read, of high quality, preferably in colour, and have a clear legend (map key).

15.5	**Description of the Project**

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 and/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).

If the Project has several phases and/or components, present those already completed and under implementation, as well as subsequent phases and/or components in chronological order.

Briefly describe and quantify the beneficiaries of the Project, emphasising vulnerable, disadvantaged, and gender-sensitive groups.

For the Project as defined in section 15.5, the Project planning must be provided in section 16 and the Project budget in section 20.

15.6	**Description of the Action**

Describe the scope of the Action in the two subsections below, i.e. the project activities funded by the WBIF contribution, divided into:

- *Investment: works and supplies co-financed by the WBIF contribution.*
- *TA (if applicable): technical assistance financed partially or entirely by the WBIF contribution.*

Describe how the supervision of works will be carried out for the works and supplies co-financed by the WBIF contribution.

Please note that the activities of the intervention are not to be considered results, which are instead captured in Annex 2. This section should provide an overview of the activities to be performed using available resources. Ensure consistency between the description of the Action presented in this section and the cost components provided in section 22 – Calculation of the WBIF contribution.

For large investment projects to be financed by the Reform and Growth Facility (RGF), the WBIF contribution may be divided into two or more tranches if the total WBIF contribution required exceeds the funds made available under the RGF release of funds corresponding to the call for proposals INV Round 13A. In these exceptional cases, the description required in subsections 15.6.1 and 15.6.2 below should pertain exclusively to the activities to be funded by the tranche of the WBIF contribution being requested in INV Round 13A, in accordance with section 22 – Calculation of the WBIF contribution.

15.6.1	Investment component

For the investment component, provide both a quantitative and qualitative description of the works and supplies co-financed by the WBIF contribution, or—where applicable—the tranche of the WBIF contribution requested under INV Round 13A: 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. For investment projects funded by the RGF in multiple tranches, this description should specifically refer to the tranche for which support is sought in INV Round 13A. If the WBIF contribution co-finances the entire Project, specify that and do not repeat the description of works and supplies in this subsection.

15.6.2	TA component (as applicable)

If the WBIF contribution is allocated to TA, please provide a detailed description of the scope for each TA activity. Indicate at which stage of the project cycle (e.g. design, procurement, construction, etc.) each TA activity will be undertaken. Additionally, specify all normative provisions and mandatory standards that must be adhered to in the implementation of the TA activities. For investment projects financed by the RGF in multiple tranches, this description should pertain solely to the tranche sought in INV Round 13A.

15.7	**Reference documents**

List the documents used in drafting section 15, e.g. studies, technical documentation, statistics, strategies, action plans, etc. Indicate the document title, author, issue date, and URL if available online.

16 Indicative project status and planning

Describe, for the Project as defined in section 15.5, the Project's current stage and the envisaged timeline per the instructions below. The following key aspects should be covered in this section:

- ***Technical**: Status of/planning for preparing the masterplan, pre-feasibility study, feasibility study, 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, specifically**:*

- *Only projects that demonstrate that the relevant preparatory work has been completed and is up to date, and for which the **signature of the (first) works contract will occur within 24 months of the approval of the WBIF contribution** shall be eligible for WBIF support.*
- *The **detailed design (or the preliminary design for design-build projects)** and the tender documentation (if part of project preparation TA) must be completed and approved by the beneficiary by the time of the WBIF contribution's approval.*
- *The **ESIA** must be completed and approved by the IFIs at the time of application submission.*
- *The project's **financing plan** must be in place; the **financing should be confirmed** by co-financiers, the Beneficiary's Ministry of Finance, and the **Lead IFI's project appraisal/loan preparation should be ongoing** at the time of application submission.*
- *All necessary **approvals or pre-approvals**, as applicable, from beneficiary stakeholders should be obtained by the time the application is submitted, i.e. **EIA approval** (national EIA positive decision), **land acquisition** (siting decision "freezing the land" under the project and preventing it from granting approvals for other developments).*

The table below presents the classification criteria for mature and non-mature projects.

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), and signature of the (first) works contract will occur within 24 months of the approval of the WBIF contribution.

- *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	*[insert date]*	*[insert date]*	[select status]	*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 score in the SPP.*
Strategic Environmental Assessment (if applicable)	*[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.*
Pre-feasibility Study	*[insert date]*	*[insert date]*	[select status]	*As above*
Feasibility Study	*[insert date]*	*[insert date]*	[select status]	*As above*
Conceptual Design	*[insert date]*	*[insert date]*	[select status]	*As above*
Environmental and Social Impact Assessment	*[insert date]*	*[insert date]*	[select status]	*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. *Start date: Onset of the application for environmental consent.* *Completion date: End of the ESIA procedure, including appeals and final decision.*
	Preliminary Design	*[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.*
	Land ownership	*[insert date]*	*[insert date]*	[select status]	*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 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).* *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 the likelihood of delays in the acquisition plan can be significant and, in turn, delay 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 the title, author and issue date.*
	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. under negotiation, terms agreed upon, signed, etc.*
	WBIF grant agreement preparation and signing	*[insert date]*	*[insert date]*	[select status]	*Brief description of the process, from drafting to signing, specifying for each step the responsible counterpart (Lead IFI and/or Beneficiary) and the expected timeframe. Please also indicate whether the grant agreement requires ratification, or an equivalent procedure, to become effective and, if so, the time required to complete it.*
	Preparation of tender dossier for technical assistance for project implementation support	*[insert date]*	*[insert date]*	[select status]	*Short description of the status.*
	Procurement of technical assistance for project implementation support	*[insert date]*	*[insert date]*	[select status]	*Short description of the status, potential delays (e.g. appeals, retendering), and contract signature.*
	Preparation of tender dossier for supervision of works	*[insert date]*	*[insert date]*	[select status]	*Short description of the status.*
	Procurement of technical assistance for supervision of works	*[insert date]*	*[insert date]*	[select status]	*Short description of the status, potential delays (e.g. appeals, retendering), and contract signature.*

	Preparation of tender dossier(s) for works (per phase/component)	*[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.*
	Signature of the works contract (per phase/component)	*[insert date]*	*[insert date]*	[select status]	*Provide a brief description of the contract's signature status and any potential delays in the signing process, including their underlying causes and proposed mitigation measures. If more than one works contract is required, please provide separate entries for each contract. For each entry, summarise the works covered, indicate the signature status, and outline any anticipated delays—together with their causes and mitigation measures.*
	Construction works	*[insert date]*	*[insert date]*	[select status]	*Short description of the status. If the Project is divided into phases and/or components, list each phase and/or component separately.* *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.* *If the Project has already started, indicate the implementation status of each phase and/or component, describe executed works and the percentage completed.*

					Indicate whether the completion date accounts for the defect notification period.

17 Coherence with the Growth Plan and the Reform and Growth Facility, EU policies, and adopted national/sectoral/regional strategies

In the subsections below, provide a structured and concise description of how the Project (i) addresses the WBIF blending investment priorities in line with the WBIF Strategic Orientations 2021-2027, the objectives of the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans and the Reform and Growth Facility, including the list of indicative investments prepared as part of the Reform Agenda process, and the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans; (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.

(Indicative max 500 words)

- *Ensure that the Project addresses the WBIF blending investment priorities and the objectives of the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans and the Reform and Growth Facility.*
- *Ensure that the strategic justification of the Project is reliable and relevant.*
- *Confirm that the project is included in the RGF Indicative list of the beneficiary partners.*
- *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).*

17.1 Alignment with the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans and the Reform and Growth Facility

Briefly explain how the Project aligns with the objectives of the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans and the Reform and Growth Facility (RGF). Confirm whether the Project is included in the indicative list of priority investments for the RGF. If the Project is not on this list, provide a brief justification for its submission.

(Maximum length 700 characters).

17.2 Alignment with Green Agenda objectives

Describe how the Project is consistent with the Guidelines for the implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans.

*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).*

*For **energy projects,** specify the contribution to decarbonise energy production and/or consumption.*

*For **transport projects,** describe the matching with the priorities of the Sustainable and Smart Transport Strategy (SSTS), decarbonisation, digitalisation, modal shift, safety, etc., and demonstrate alignment with the 'do no significant harm' principle and the Paris Agreement.*

17.3 Coherence with EU policies and core directives

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.

17.4 Compliance with adopted national/sectoral/regional strategies

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.

Indicate the Project's position in the SPP and justify the application if the Project is ranked low in the SPP. Project proposals covering infrastructure investments should, as a general principle, be prioritised and identified in the "Single (National) Project Pipeline" compiled within the remit of a National Investment Committee (NIC), or equivalent national structure.

	Describe the Project's priority from the point of view of national and regional authorities (e.g., the Transport Community, the Energy Community, or other similar bodies). *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.*

18	**Consultations before submission**: • NIC • IFIs • EU Delegation(s) • Donors • Regional/international organisations • Other stakeholders	*Summarise the timing, nature and outcome of consultations with:* • *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.).* *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 national budget, (iii) there is a firm commitment of the Ministry of Finance to take up the loan and to implement the Project according to the proposed scope and timetable presented in the application. Indicate whether this letter is submitted with the application.* *(Indicative max. 200 words)*

19	**Institutional framework of the Project** *Beneficiary institutions must have an adequate capacity to define their investment plans and to procure and implement the Project, possibly with specific technical assistance. The relevant beneficiary entity must demonstrate commitment and* ***project ownership for the whole project duration and ensure that a project implementation unit is in place with appropriate skills and relevant experience acceptable to the IFIs****.* *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.*	
	21.1	Description of entities involved
	Describe the entities involved in the implementation of the Project, including: • *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, provide the contractual structure (e.g. concession, private-public partnerships).*	
	21.2	Organisational set-up
	This section should provide a comprehensive account of the organisational structure established to implement the Project: • *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.* • *Specify whether the Project involves an implementation unit (e.g. a Project Implementation Unit (PIU)) and describe its setup, roles, and responsibilities. The PIU must have adequate capacity to fulfil its obligations. Present the minimum composition and capacities of the PIU team (e.g. project manager, designers, engineers, procurement experts, legal, environmental and social experts) and the skills required to manage the Project effectively (e.g. experience with implementing FIDIC contracts and IFI requirements).* • *In addition, a monitoring and coordination structure (e.g. Project Steering Committee) should be in place to effectively monitor progress in the implementation of the project. This structure must include all relevant stakeholders, including the beneficiary entity, the Lead IFI, the Delegation/Office of the EU, etc., and should convene regularly, at least twice a year, as well as on an ad-hoc basis whenever significant issues arise.*	

- *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.*

20	**Project budget and financing plan** *Provide, for the Project as defined in section 15.5, a clear and complete project budget (cost breakdown structure) and financing plan (sources of funds and corresponding contributions). Please include the cost components, their descriptions (related activities) and the corresponding amounts in the budget matched against sources of funds and their respective financial contributions in the financing plan. The costs should not include VAT.* *The prefilled cost components listed in the application form are indicative; their project's cost composition is left to the applicant's discretion. The budget should provide a detailed indication of the Project's costs and financial resources.* *The costs of works and supplies, excluding 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, specifically 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 component and/or phase (i.e. in individual rows in the table).* *The financing plan should contain the 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.* *For large investment projects financed by the Reform and Growth Facility (RGF), the WBIF contribution—subject to applicable co-financing rates—may need to be divided into two or more tranches if the total required WBIF contribution exceeds the amount available under the RGF funding allocated for the current call for proposals (INV Round 13A). In such exceptional cases, the tranche requested in INV Round 13A should be clearly distinguished in Annex 3 of the application form from both previous tranches (e.g., those allocated in INV Rounds 10B-11) and any anticipated future tranches.* *Only the WBIF contribution tranche requested under the current call should be included in the project's financing plan under the heading "WBIF contribution amount requested without fees." If a previous tranche was awarded during INV Rounds 10B-11, it should be reported on a separate line in the financing plan. Any future WBIF contribution tranches should be reflected as loan(s) and/or national contributions within the financing plan.* *While it is understood that the figures provided at this stage are indicative and may vary from those used during the contracting phase, applicants are expected to make every effort to ensure that these estimates accurately reflect the anticipated financial requirements of the project.* ***Eligible costs*** ***The categories of costs eligible for WBIF co-financing** are those that, with due regard to the eligibility criteria set out in Chapter 1 – Eligibility provisions 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 with respect to 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.*

***Contingencies** should not exceed 10% of the investment cost (i.e. works and supplies) net of contingencies.*

*Attention is drawn to the importance of the "Payment of the WBIF contribution from the Joint Fund" section of the application form. This section includes **the final date of operational implementation of the Action** and **the payment schedule**, which must be provided before the European Commission signs the application and sets time limits on the disbursement of the WBIF contribution. **The final date of operational implementation of the Action** refers to the completion date of all contracts implementing the Action (e.g. works have been performed, supplies have been delivered, services have been provided). For WBIF contributions financed by the European Commission, **the final date of operational implementation** is specified in the relevant Contribution Arrangement, and disbursements are not allowed past this date.*

Non-eligible costs

- *Expenditure incurred prior to the signature of the relevant Contribution Arrangement.*
- *Expenditure ineligible under national rules.*
- *Other expenditures such as:*
  - *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 costs*[2]
  - *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,	*[as above]*	*[as above]*	*[as above]*

[2] 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.

		tender documents, procurement procedures)			
	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]*	*[insert the number of the cost component(s) financed]*	*[insert amount]*	*[filled in automatically in MIS]*	*[indicate if the loan is sovereign or non-sovereign and its status is, e.g., estimated, terms agreed upon, signed, etc.]*
IFI Loan 2 *[insert IFI name]*	*[insert the number of the cost component(s) financed]*	*[insert amount]*	*[filled in automatically in MIS]*	*[as above]*
WBIF contribution amount requested without fees and divided into RGF Commission contribution (in proportion of 0.5366666666666670) and RGF Beneficiary contribution (in proportion of 0.4633333333333330)[(e)] *[insert the code of the WBIF contribution]*	*[insert the number of the cost component(s) financed]*	*[insert amount]*	*[filled in automatically in MIS]*	RGF Commission contribution
	[insert the number of the cost component(s) financed]	*[insert amount]*	*[filled in automatically in MIS]*	RGF Beneficiary contribution
Other WBIF grants/contributions[(f)] *[insert grant/contribution code]*	*[insert the number of the cost component(s) financed]*	*[insert amount]*	*[filled in automatically in MIS]*	*[indicate activities financed]*

	Other grants[f] *[insert donor name]*	*[insert the number of the cost component(s) financed]*	*[insert amount]*	*[filled in automatically in MIS]*	*[code/reference number of the financing agreement, financed activities]*
	Other sources[f] *[insert source name]*	*[insert the number of the cost component(s) financed]*	*[insert amount]*	*[filled in automatically in MIS]*	*[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 and/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 not exceed 10% of the costs of works and supplies. The utilisation of contingency funds during the implementation of the Action needs to be pre-authorised by the European Commission. It may also be used to cover other eligible costs, such as negative interest, in accordance with the General Conditions and, if applicable, bilateral implementation agreements.

[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] It must be identical to the 'WBIF contribution amount without fees' (i.e. the WBIF contribution exclusive of implementation fees) from section 22 - Calculation of the WBIF contribution. The respective proportions of the RGF Commission and Beneficiary contributions must be entered separately in the financing plan, using the following formulae:

- *RGF Commission contribution: WBIF contribution without fees × 0.5366666666666670*
- *RGF Beneficiary contribution: WBIF contribution without fees × 0.4633333333333330.*

For example: If the 'WBIF contribution amount without fees' in section 22 is €15,000,000.00, the amounts to be provided in section 20 are:

- *RGF Commission contribution: €8,050,000.00 (calculated as €15,000,000.00 × 0.5366666666666670)*
- *RGF Beneficiary contribution: €6,950,000.00 (calculated as €15,000,000.00 × 0.4633333333333330).*

For investment projects financed by the Reform and Growth Facility (RGF) where the WBIF contribution is divided into two or more tranches, this amount refers to the tranche being requested in INV Round 13A, as specified in section 22 - Calculation of the WBIF contribution.

[f] Other WBIF grants/contributions approved for this 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.

21	**Fiscal space and debt sustainability**	*Complete this section in cooperation with the LFI and the Ministry of Finance. Describe how the WBIF contribution will assist in complying with debt limits (e.g. as required by the IMF/World Bank Dept Sustainability Framework), if applicable. Indicate the nature of the debt limit (absolute limit or net present value terms) and justify the WBIF contribution amount requested.* *Indicate the country's proximity to the debt limit (as established by the IMF or other fiscal rules), and the potential impact of the Project's sovereign or sub-sovereign loans/guarantees on the debt sustainability framework at both national and sub-national levels. Indicate the country risk rating (low, moderate, high or debt distress) of public debt distress assigned (based on*

		World Bank/IMF DSA if applicable). If applicable, confirm the IMF agreement to the loan and its inclusion in the country's medium-term debt strategy and annual borrowing plan.

22 **Calculation of the WBIF contribution**

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

*For large **investment projects** financed by the RGF, the WBIF contribution (subject to applicable co-financing rates) may be considered in two or more tranches if the total WBIF contribution required exceeds the amount made available under the RGF release of funds corresponding to this call for proposals. In these exceptional cases, only the calculation of the tranche applied for in INV Round 13A must be provided in this section. At the same time, the overall WBIF contribution should be included in Annex 3 of the application form. The current tranche must be presented as set out below, i.e., divided into "Works and supplies", "Contingencies", and "Technical assistance", depending on the project costs to be covered by the tranche.*

*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. The investment costs of 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 1.5 of these guidelines for the subsector the Project addresses. The applicant must justify the project-specific co-financing rate in section 23.*

***Technical assistance costs** for project preparation and implementation (only the eligible cost categories listed in section 20) 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 20.*

*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 Project's Cost-Benefit Analysis, the Project's actual need for public support, and consultations among 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 15.6) 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]*
WBIF contribution 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 CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT		*[SUM(1:5)]*

[(a)] May include eligible costs for works (building and construction) and supplies (plant and machinery) from section 20 - Project budget and financing plan.

[(b)] May include eligible costs for contingencies from section 20 - 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 20 - 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.

23	**WBIF contribution amount justification**	*Please explain **thoroughly** how the WBIF contribution was determined, 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.* *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 the WBIF contribution is requested (figures as provided in sections 20 and 22). For works, supplies, and technical assistance, this should include a breakdown of planned activities and corresponding costs, as well as an explanation of why the specific co-financing rate is requested. For contingencies, this should include a description of what is covered, how the requested WBIF contribution amount was determined, and the reasons for covering that specific amount with the WBIF contribution. All the costs considered in the calculation of the WBIF contribution should be duly detailed, eligible and appropriate for the Action.* *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).* *For investment projects financed by the RGF, where the WBIF contribution is divided into two or more tranches, the justification should address both the tranche requested under INV Round 13A and any previous tranches (e.g. those allocated in INV Rounds 10B-11) in the context of the overall WBIF required contribution. Additionally, the justification should demonstrate that the current tranche can serve as standalone financing if future tranches are not secured.* • *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.*

24	**Additionality of the WBIF contribution** *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. WBIF contribution funding is justified only when significant additionality is demonstrated for the funding itself; this funding is justified only if it leads to*

	investments that are significantly higher, better, or quicker than would be possible without the WBIF contribution. For investment projects financed by the RGF, where WBIF contribution is divided into two or more tranches, the additionality analysis should, to the extent possible, be developed with consideration of the anticipated final financial structure of the investment. *Some types of additionalities are quantifiable, and applicants should make every effort to quantify the additionality of the WBIF contribution wherever possible. Others may not be quantifiable, and those should be addressed qualitatively. Where a qualitative method is chosen, the reasons should be explained. All statements of additionality must be thoroughly explained, and evidence should be provided to support claims of additionality.* *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.* *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.*	
	Economic and financial	*Thoroughly explain the financial additionality of the WBIF contribution. Financial additionality in EU blending follows the OECD definition, whereby a transaction is "financially additional if it is extended to an entity that cannot obtain finance from local or international private capital markets with similar terms or entities without official support, or if it mobilises investment from the private sector that would not have been invested otherwise". The OECD definition, therefore, includes: i) improved conditions and terms of the financing obtained by the final recipient or ii) an element of additional mobilisation over and above the financing made directly available by the donor.* *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, and greater service affordability.*
	Project scale	*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?*
	Project timing	*In what way does the WBIF contribution element positively affect the timing of the operation and the benefits it is expected to deliver?*
	Project quality and standards	*How will the WBIF contribution funding improve the quality of the outcomes expected from the operation? How will the WBIF contribution funding 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 funding contribute to gender equality and equal opportunities, the needs of persons with disabilities, and the rights of minorities and vulnerable groups?*
	Innovation	*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?*
	Sustainability	*Does the WBIF contribution funding help support further or parallel activities to ensure that benefits continue beyond the life of the Project? For example, does the WBIF contribution support structural reforms and legislative, regulatory, or policy changes? Does the WBIF contribution finance enable demonstration effects to other participants in the marketplace?*
	Other benefits	*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?*

25	**Leverage ratios** *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 contribution type (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.* *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 to the Project, should normally be excluded.* *Similarly, additional finance mobilised as an indirect result of the Project (e.g. through the demonstration effect), even if the time lag is short, should not count towards the leverage ratio.* *Regarding the denominator for 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).* *For investment projects financed by RGF for which the WBIF contribution is divided into two or more tranches, the leverage ratios should be calculated based on the tranche requested under INV Round 13A, as well as any previous tranches (i.e. those allocated in INV Rounds 10B–11). Future tranches should not be included in these calculations.* ***Project applications should foresee a minimum EU leverage effect of 2.***	
	EU leverage effect	*= 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, therefore, includes only IFI reimbursable financial instruments.* **EU Leverage effect** = Total reimbursable financing to eligible final recipients / Union contribution = ➢ [C + E] / [A + B] or E / [A + B] 
	Lead Financial Institution leverage ratio	*= total amount of financing provided by the LFI divided by the amount of the EU contribution including fees.* *The numerator of this ratio includes IFI reimbursable financial instruments and IFI grants.* **Lead finance institution leverage ratio** = (Total eligible FI financing / Union contribution)= ➢ [C + D] / [A + B] 
	Private sector finance leverage ratio	*= 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.* *The numerator of this ratio typically includes contributions from PFIs (privately owned) and, in some cases, equity from beneficiaries.* **Private sector finance leverage ratio** = (Private sector financing / Union contribution)= ➢ [E + F] / [A + B] 
	Multiplier effect	*= means the investment by eligible final recipients divided by the amount of the EU contribution.*

26	**Project sustainability** *Complete this section in cooperation with the LFI. Describe under which conditions the Project will be sustainable when the WBIF contribution support, including the TA 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.*

Ensure that this section addresses the following sustainability aspects:

- *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.*
- *The Project proves to be accessible, i.e. all financing sources are secured, and it will be financially and fiscally sustainable once in operation.*
- *Environmental and social impacts are acceptable, or if negative impacts are foreseen, appropriate mitigation measures are proposed.*
- *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 be adequate for the sustainable delivery of the proposed services.*

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 to ensure that adverse environmental impacts are avoided or mitigated 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?*

27 Risk assessment

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:

- *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.*

Address the following risk categories:

- ***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 22): 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 inclusion 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.*
- ***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 not completed on time, budget and specification, etc.)*
- *Risks related to project outputs not leading to intended outcomes.*

- ***Operation risks:** The risk that operation and maintenance 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]*	

28 Addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation

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).

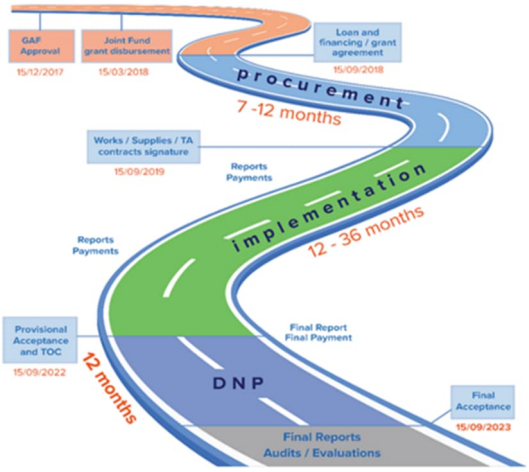
Describe the climate finance components of the Project (if any) for adaptation and/or mitigation. The Rio Markers methodology should be used to determine whether climate change is the principal objective, one of the objectives (significant), or not an objective of the Project. Please consult the OECD guidelines for identifying the Rio markers[3]. Based on its methodology, the LFI may propose a specific percentage of the project budget as a climate change contribution.

Rio Markers	*Mitigation*		*Adaptation*	
	Project [M€]	WBIF co-financing	*Project* [M€]	WBIF co-financing
RM0 (no objectives)		□		□
RM1 (significant objective)		□		□
RM2 (the principal objective)		□		□

[3] A list of examples, by sector, is available in the Handbook on the OECD-DAC Climate Markers.

29	**Indicative calendar of the Action**	*Summarise (narrative description) critical milestones in the procurement and implementation phases of the Action and procurement procedures, as follows:* • *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.* • *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:* o *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).* o *TA for supervision of construction works should start in parallel with the works contracts and should be completed at the end of the DNP.* *In the table below, indicate the dates of specific milestones by specifying the quarter in which each milestone is expected to be achieved (e.g. Q4/2026). The milestones listed in the application form are mandatory. Additional milestones relevant to the Action may be added as separate entries (rows) in the table.* *Ensure that planned activities are logically sequenced and realistically implementable within the proposed timeframe. Each activity should be scheduled for implementation within an appropriate period. For example:* o *TA for project management typically commences 3-6 months before the works contracts and continues throughout the project implementation period, excluding the Defects Notification Period (DNP).* o *TA for supervision of construction works usually begins concurrently with the works contracts and should be concluded at the end of the DNP.* *The following planning principles should be considered as guidance:* • *Activities should align with the standard time necessary for procedures (e.g. obtaining permits, etc.)* • *Activities should follow the sequential order of the development of the Action.* • *The duration of each activity should include a safety margin.* • *The overall duration of the Action should be sufficient for its complete execution.* • *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. elections, etc.) should be considered.* • *To the extent practical, the resource utilisation should be uniform throughout the Action/Project.* • *The duration of the Action/Project determines the size of the budget (fixed costs).* • *Critical stages in the development of the investment project should 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.*

The following illustration exemplifies typical timelines underlying the implementation of an investment project.



- *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 (Quarter/Year)	**Expected date of contract signature (Quarter/Year)**	**Expected start date (Quarter/Year)**	**Expected completion date (Quarter/Year)**
Technical assistance for project management *[if applicable]*	*[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 *[if applicable]*	*[insert date]*	*[insert date]*	*[insert date]*	*[insert date]*

30	**Monitoring, reporting and evaluation**	*Complete this section in cooperation with LFI. This section must be completed in accordance with the narrative and the result framework provided in Annex 2. Please describe:* • *The performance and result monitoring arrangements specific to the Project. Indicate the LFI mechanisms for regular and systematic 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 organisational set-up that will be put in place by the beneficiary and the LFI for monitoring of the Project and Action. A monitoring and*

		coordination structure (e.g. Project Steering Committee) should be in place to properly monitor progress in the implementation of the project; this structure must include all relevant stakeholders, including the beneficiary entity, the Lead IFI, the Delegation/Office of the EU, etc., and should convene regularly at least twice a year, as well as on an ad-hoc basis whenever significant issues arise.) 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.* • *Whether the environment and social management plan is integrated into the monitoring, reporting and evaluation system.* • *Practices during the Project's preparation and implementation phases to ensure effective cooperation with the EU Delegation and the EU Headquarters.* ***Main pre-conditions*** *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).*

31	**Visibility [comment IFICO: as updated for INV 14]**	*Concisely describe how the project will comply with the mandatory visibility requirements for acknowledging WBIF and EU support, as set out in the* ***WBIF Communication and Visibility Guidelines****, which are available at https://wbif.eu/storage/app/media/Library/cv-guidelines-2026-to-2027.pdf .* *Costs related to ensuring WBIF and EU visibility are eligible. They should be included in the budget under the relevant activity to which they relate, namely works and supplies, as indicated in Section 21 above.* *In line with the WBIF Communication and Visibility Guidelines, implementing partners shall ensure that the European Commission is informed regularly and sufficiently in advance of any planned communication activity directly related to the project, particularly those concerning key implementation milestones.* *Where requested by the WBIF and/or the EU, recipients of WBIF funding shall support WBIF and EU communication activities, for example, by providing content or facilitating access to the project for campaigns or media actions managed by the WBIF and/or the EU.* *Further details on the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder, as well as on the process for coordinating communication activities, are provided in the WBIF Communication and Visibility Guidelines.* *A checklist designed to help WBIF stakeholders verify compliance with all visibility requirements, in the form of a self-assessment tool, is provided in* ***Annex 3*** *to these Guidelines.*

32	**Issues to be clarified before WBIF contribution approval**	*Describe all pending issues that must be resolved before the WBIF contribution is approved, including conditions related to the RGF and specific commitments for implementing the Project (e.g. land ownership for the Project), and provide the timeline for their resolution.*

33	**Contacts** *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), considering any restrictions imposed by banking regulations, confidentiality and compliance issues, etc.*

	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).				
	Institution	Contact person	Function	Phone	Email
	Lead Financial Institution				
	Beneficiary authority				
	EU Delegation				
	Co-financier(s)				
	Private partner(s)				

34	**Date of submission by the NIPAC**	*This section is filled in automatically in MIS.*	**NIPAC Details**	*This section is filled in automatically in MIS.*

Annex 1: Key requirements checklist

Ensure this annex is as complete as possible.

Main requirements:		**Yes**	**No**
1.	Operations covered by the WBIF benefit one of the following Beneficiaries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia.		
2.	The project belongs to one of the following WBIF intervention areas: Sustainable transport | Clean energy | Environment and climate | Digital future | Human capital development.		
3.	The application form is submitted by the NIPAC and is endorsed by all relevant stakeholders.		
4.	The project is listed in the SPP.		
5.	The project is included in the RGF Indicative List		
6.	All the elements of the project activities funded by the WBIF contribution are, in principle, eligible for financing.		
7.	The confirmation letter from the Ministry of Finance and the NIPAC is included.		
8.	The project is consistent with the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans, Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans and the Reform and Growth Facility, EU Pre-Accession Strategy, core directives, relevant sector policies and strategies, and national investment plans.		
9.	The activities of the project do not duplicate or overlap with other operations.		
10.	The Lead Financial Institution supports this application and has been consulted in preparing the application form.		
11.	The WBIF contribution, as well as its calculation and justification, are clearly explained.		
12.	The technical and financial status of the project demonstrates that it fulfils the maturity criteria (namely, that the 1st works contract will be signed at the latest 24 months after the grant approval by the Operational Board).		
13.	The information provided in each section of the application form is consistent and coherent throughout.		
14.	All sections of the application form are filled out with the information requested.		
15.	All relevant stakeholders have been consulted when preparing the application form.		
16.	The description of the institutional framework demonstrates the beneficiary's capacity to define the investment and implement the project.		
17.	The values of the result indicators reflect the project's expected outputs and outcomes.		
18.	The risks associated with the project have been defined, and appropriate mitigation measures have been identified.		
19.	Indicative project, action, and procurement calendars have been proposed, and the Lead Financial Institution has been consulted in their preparation.		
20.	The Lead Financial Institution has been consulted on the project’s contribution to climate change mitigation/adaptation and resilience.		

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 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 must be presented as Annex 2 to the application form. It must be uploaded as a separate document (a Word or PFD file) under the heading "Upload documents" to MIS when the application form is submitted.
  Available in the WBIF MIS Library, under the "WBIF Indicators & RF Templates" tab (https://mis2.wbif.eu/Library) are: (i) the Result Framework Templates by sector, inclusive of relevant indicators and ready for use; (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 contain 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 try to limit the number of Outcome(s) to 2-3 at the most4.
	Please use the past participle in 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 the past participle in 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'.

[4] For interventions covering more than one area of support, the number of outcomes can increase (keeping the total number reasonable).

- 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 and risk analyses.

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 3: Breakdown of the WBIF Contribution into Tranches

This annex must be provided only for investment projects to be financed under the Reform and Growth Facility for which the WBIF contribution is split into two or more tranches. It is part of the application and must be uploaded as a separate document at the submission of the application form via the WBIF MIS:



Please delete this box after filling in the section below.

For large investment projects financed by the Reform and Growth Facility (RGF), the WBIF contribution (within the applicable co-financing rate) may be considered in two or more tranches if the total WBIF contribution required exceeds the amount available under the RGF release of funds corresponding to the call for proposals INV Round 13A. In these exceptional cases, the WBIF Operational Board acknowledges the total WBIF contribution required for the project but approves only the tranche that can be mobilised under INV Round 13A.

Applicants must specify the total anticipated WBIF contribution required for the investment project in this annex. This overall contribution should be broken down into individual tranches, starting with the first.

For each tranche, applicants must provide the following information in tabular format as outlined below:

- The value of the tranche being requested at each WBIF call for proposals.
- The time when the respective tranche is expected to be submitted to the WBIF Operational Board in a call for proposals[5].
- The cumulative amount of the tranches (i.e., sum of the tranches previously approved and the tranche being requested).
- The loan and/or the national contribution amounts allocated to the project at the moment a tranche is being requested.

[5] The indicative timeline and indicative allocation of funds under the RGF are specified in the Commission Implementing Decision approving the Reform Agendas and the multiannual work programme under the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans.

Tranche number	WBIF tranche (€) -	Date of submission of the tranche to WBIF Operational Board (month/year)	Cumulative value of the WBIF tranches (€) (A)	Loan amount (€) (B)	National contribution (€) (C)	Total of funding resources (A)+(B)+(C)
1						
2						
3						
…						
…						
…						
Total WBIF required contribution		**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a**

ASSESSMENT

RESULT OF THE SCREENING PHASE

	To be filled by the Commission/ task manager after screening	

RESULT OF THE ASSESSMENT PHASE

	To be filled by the Lead Financial Institution after the assessment process	

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 EWBJF 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[6]				
		Final date of operational implementation of the Action [as per Contribution Arrangement]				Insert the completion date of all activities financed by the WBIF contribution funds.
		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.
			1st payment			
			2nd payment			
			3rd payment			
			…			

[6] 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 EWBJF 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 EWBJF Assembly of Contributors		
Name	Date	Signature

AMENDMENTS TO THE APPROVED APPLICATION FORM

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

Annex 2: WBIF communication & visibility compliance checklist (self-assessment)

The checklist is designed to help WBIF stakeholders double-check that they are meeting all visibility requirements. It is not designed as a mandatory reporting tool but as a self-assessment tool.

A. General obligations

☐ Visibility requirements for EU-funded projects are met in accordance with the WBIF Communication and Visibility Guidelines (full WBIF logo set).
☐ EU contribution to the Action is clearly acknowledged in all communication and visibility outputs.
☐ Visibility costs are included in the project budget where required by the WBIF Guidelines.

B. Logos and visual identity

☐ The WBIF logo set (EU emblem, funding statement, and WBIF logo) is used in its entirety.
☐ The EU emblem is not modified, distorted, recoloured, or separated from the funding statement.
☐ The WBIF logo set is at least the same size as partner logos and is prominently positioned.

C. Mandatory branding by output type

Output type	Requirements	Done
Construction board/billboard/display panel	Includes WBIF logo set, key project information (title, beneficiary, donor role).	
	Installed at project start and maintained until six months after completion, at access routes.	
Commemorative plaque (permanent infrastructure)	Includes WBIF logo set.	
	Installed at the most visible location for all permanent structures (e.g. buildings, roads, bridges).	
Event (launches, inaugurations, workshops, site visits)	WBIF Secretariat is informed at least 4 weeks in advance of the event.	
	Branded materials are prepared with the WBIF logo set (at least one of the following): roll-up, backdrop/banner, or lectern/podium branding.	
	EU/WBIF support is referenced in the opening remarks, event agenda, and press materials.	
Press release	Includes WBIF logo set.	
	EU/WBIF support is referenced in the text.	
Publication (reports, factsheets, newsletters)	Includes WBIF logo set.	
	Includes standard EU disclaimer[7].	
Digital asset (webpages, social media, presentations)	Includes WBIF logo set on relevant pages or visuals.	
	EU/WBIF support is clearly stated in accompanying text or captions.	
	Presentations include the WBIF logo set on the title and closing slides.	
Video and audio-visual product	Includes the WBIF logo set in intro and outro.	
	Includes standard EU disclaimer[7]	

[7] The standard EU disclaimer is used verbatim: *"This publication/video/website was co-funded by the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of [name of implementing partner] and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union."*

Annex 3: Screening and assessment grid for INV Round 13A

Part 1

<table>
<tr><td>1</td><td>Blending facility</td><td>WBIF</td><td>2</td><td>WBIF contribution code</td><td colspan="2">[This section is filled in automatically in MIS.]</td></tr>
<tr><td>2</td><td>WBIF intervention area</td><td>[This section is filled in automatically in MIS.]</td><td>3</td><td>CRS-code</td><td colspan="2">[This section is filled in automatically in MIS.]</td></tr>
<tr><td>4</td><td>Beneficiary</td><td colspan="5">[This section is filled in automatically in MIS.]</td></tr>
<tr><td>5</td><td>Project title</td><td>[This section is filled in automatically in MIS.]</td><td>6</td><td>Project code</td><td colspan="2">[This section is filled in automatically in MIS.]</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2" rowspan="2">Summary of recommendation
[to be filled by all screeners/assessors]</td><td colspan="3">Recommendation of submission for approval
[Select Yes or No]</td><td>Yes ☐</td><td>No ☐</td></tr>
<tr><td>Conditionality for the approval of the project</td><td colspan="4">[Please list the conditions that should be met before submitting the project to the WBIF Operational Board.]</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">General comments
[Please assess the aspects pertinent to your role.]</td><td colspan="5">[Please summarise the main conclusions, covering the key aspects of the application:
• Relevant information is clear and concise and allows a good understanding of the project at first reading of the application.
• Project status/maturity,
• IFI commitment/agreement, including the status of the loan.
• Coherence with WBIF investment priorities, the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans and the Reform and Growth Facility, other EU policies/principles.
• Budgetary issues, especially related to the calculation of the WBIF contribution.
• Institutional aspects.
• Other issues, such as sustainability, results indicators, and risks associated with the project.
• Overall conclusion and outstanding issues, i.e. clarifications, corrections and improvements to the application form.]</td></tr>
</table>

Part 2

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, particularly where any aspects of the application form are unclear or have not been adequately addressed.]					
1 – 14	**Identity of the project:** • 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?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially *[comments]* *[These sections are optional for Line DGs and international/regional organisations.]*					
15	**Description of the Project and Action:** • 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?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially *[comments]*					

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, particularly where any aspects of the application form are unclear or have not been adequately addressed.]					
16	**Indicative project status and planning:** • Does the technical and financial status of the Project fulfil the **maturity requirements** (namely the signature of the (first) works contract is planned to occur within 24 months of the approval of the WBIF contribution? • 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?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially *[comments]*					
17	**Coherence with the Growth Plan and the Reform and Growth Facility (EU policies, adopted national/sectoral/regional strategies:** • Is the project proposal coherent with the WBIF strategic orientations and intervention areas, and EU policies? • Is the Project coherent with the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans and the Reform and Growth Facility? • 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? • Is the project proposal prioritised and identified in the "Single (National) Project Pipeline" compiled within the remit of a National Investment Committee (NIC), or equivalent national structure? • Does the Project meet relevant social standards, including promotion of	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially *[comments]*					

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, particularly where any aspects of the application form are unclear or have not been adequately addressed.]					
	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?						
18	**Consultations before submission:** • 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 letters from the Ministry of Finance and the NIPAC been provided?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially *[comments]* *[This section is optional for Line DGs.]*					
19	**Institutional framework of the Project:** • 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?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially *[comments]* *[This section is optional for Line DGs.]*					
20	**Project budget and financing plan:** • Are the indicative budget and 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?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially *[comments]* *[This section is optional for Line DGs.]*					

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, particularly where any aspects of the application form are unclear or have not been adequately addressed.]					
	• 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 contributes (grants, loans, etc.)?						
21	**Fiscal space and debt sustainability** • 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?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially *[This section is optional for Line DGs and international/regional organisations.]*					
22	**Calculation of the WBIF contribution** • 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 20 and 23?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially *[comments]* *[This section is optional for Line DGs and international/regional organisations.]*					
23	**WBIF contribution amount justification:** • 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?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially *[comments]* *[This section is optional for Line DGs and international/regional organisations.]*					

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, particularly where any aspects of the application form are unclear or have not been adequately addressed.]					
	• Is the justification consistent with section 22?						
24	**Additionality of the WBIF contribution** • Are the expected impact and results of the Project and, more specifically, of the WBIF contribution, clearly defined for the types of additionalities identified in the application form? • 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.)?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially *[comments]* *[This section is optional for international/regional organisations.]*					
25	**Leverage ratios** • What are the proposed financial leverages? • Is the required minimum EU leverage effect of 2 fulfilled? • 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?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially *[comments]* *[This section is optional for EU Delegations, Line DGs and international/regional organisations.]*					
26	**Project sustainability**	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially					

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, particularly where any aspects of the application form are unclear or have not been adequately addressed.]					
	• 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 considered 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 continuously?	*[comments]*					
27	**Risk assessment** • Are the mitigation measures for the identified risks sufficient? • Are there additional risks which are not identified in the application? Please enumerate.	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially					
		[comments]					
28	**Addressing climate mitigation and adaptation:** • 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?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially					
		[This section is optional for EU Delegations and international/regional organisations.]					
29	**Indicative calendar of the Action:** • Are the procurement procedures to be used for the Project clear in the application? • Do they allow completing the Project within the proposed time and resources? • Are these procedures accepted as equivalent to those of the EC?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially					
		[comments]					

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, particularly where any aspects of the application form are unclear or have not been adequately addressed.]					
	• 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?						
30	**Monitoring, reporting and evaluation** • Is the monitoring, reporting and evaluation clearly described and sufficient? • Will a monitoring and coordination structure be in place to properly monitor progress in the implementation of the Project and Action; does this structure include all relevant stakeholders (including the beneficiary entity, the lead IFI, the Delegation/Office of the EU, etc.) and will it convene regularly?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially *[comments]* *[This section is optional for Line DGs and international/regional organisations.]*					
31	**Visibility** • Do the visibility activities comply with the EU requirements, and do they provide sufficient and clear visibility?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially *[comments]* *[This section is optional for Line DGs and international/regional organisations.]*					
32	**Issues to be clarified before WBIF contribution approval** • Are the issues (if any) clear? Is a timeline for their resolution indicated?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially *[comments]*					
Annex 1	**Key requirements checklist** • Is the information in this annex consistent with that provided in the application form?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially *[comments]*					
Annex 2	**Result framework** • 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? • Are the indicators accurately defined (description, measurement, baseline and target values)?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially *[comments]*					

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, particularly where any aspects of the application form are unclear or have not been adequately addressed.]					
	• Does the application include credible baselines, targets and sources of verification? • Will data be disaggregated by sex and age?						
Annex 3	**Breakdown of the WBIF contribution into tranches** (it applies only to RGF projects whose WBIF contribution is broken down into tranches) • Is the requested tranche in agreement with the amount available under the RGF release of funds corresponding to the call for proposals? • Are the tranches consistent with sections 20, 22 and 23? • Is the tranches' expected submission date to the Operational Board in tune with the indicative operational implementation period of the RGF work programme?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially					
		[comments] *[This section is optional for Line DGs, international/regional organisations, IPF and IFICO.]*					

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

Review and acceptance by the European Commission of changes made to the application form during the assessment
European Commission's review and acceptance of changes made to the application form against the screening conclusion. DG ENEST Programme Managers fill it in 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 in relation to which an applicant applies for financing of a WBIF contribution for that action.

Application form is the prescribed document that applicants must complete to apply for a WBIF contribution to a project or programme.

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

Growth Plan for the Western Balkans, adopted by the European Commission on November 8, 2023, aims to accelerate the region's socio-economic convergence with the EU. The plan is based on four pillars: enhancing economic integration with the EU's single market, boosting economic integration within the Western Balkans through the Common Regional Market, accelerating fundamental reforms, and increasing financial assistance to support these reforms through a new financing instrument, the **Reform and Growth Facility**.

Guidelines for the Implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans are guidelines presented by the European Commission in parallel with the EIP to support the region and were 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.

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 refers to the management information system administered by the WBIF Secretariat, which serves as the platform for submitting application forms in response to WBIF calls for proposals.

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 the WBIF governance body responsible for selecting projects eligible 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 that an applicant proposes for financing under the WBIF in a call for proposals.

Programme means an overall investment programme comprising multiple activities and/or instruments proposed for WBIF financing.

WBIF Project Financiers' Group (PFG): means the group consisting of representatives of the European Commission, Partner Financial Organisations, and Bilateral Donors, and responsible for carrying out the screening and assessment of requests for the selection of actions that will benefit from financial support under the WBIF.

WBIF contribution means the amount requested by an applicant for financing an Action from WBIF resources.

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 sustainable transport, clean energy, environment and climate, digital future, competitiveness of the private sector, and human capital development.