

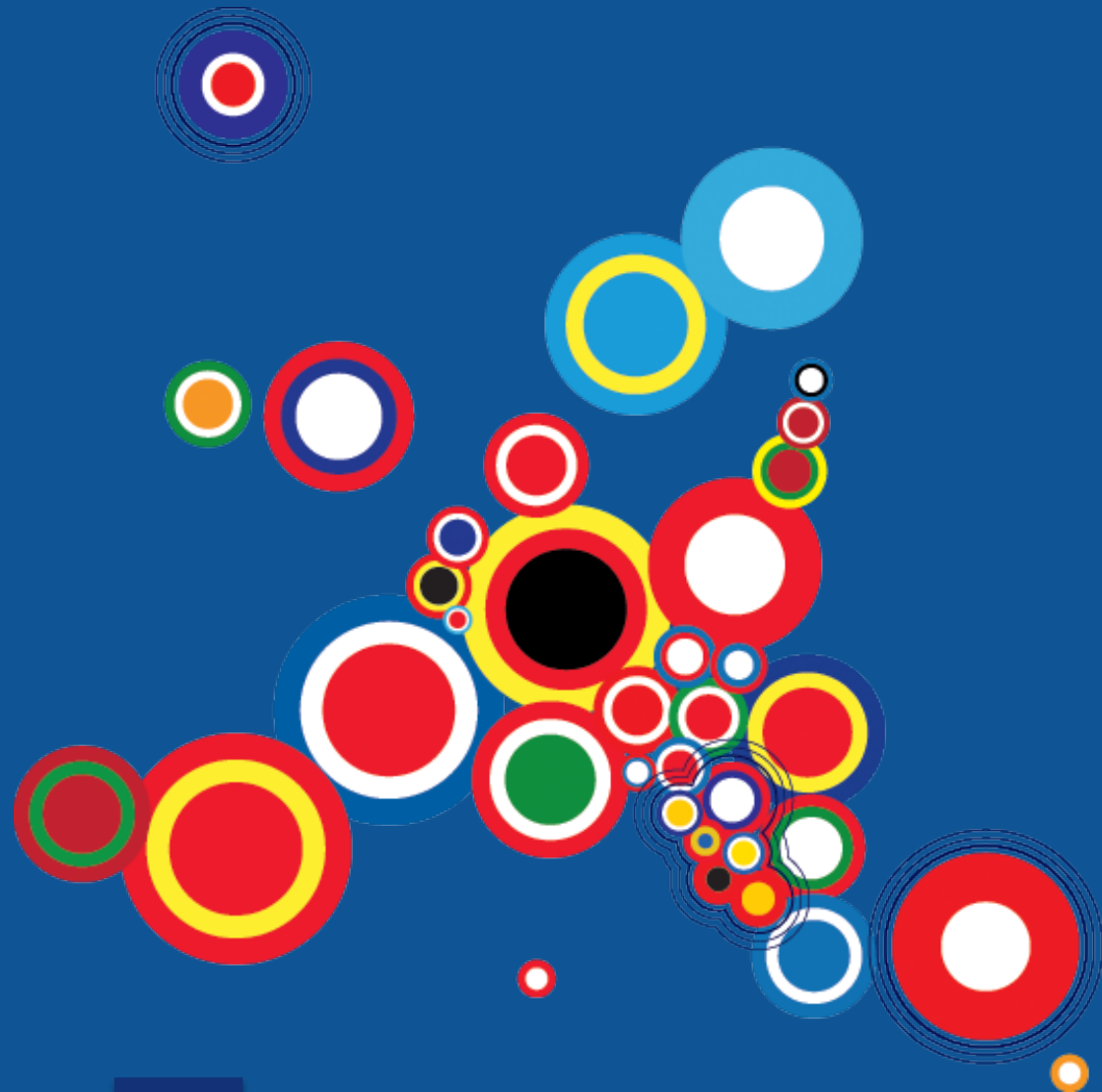


RTF

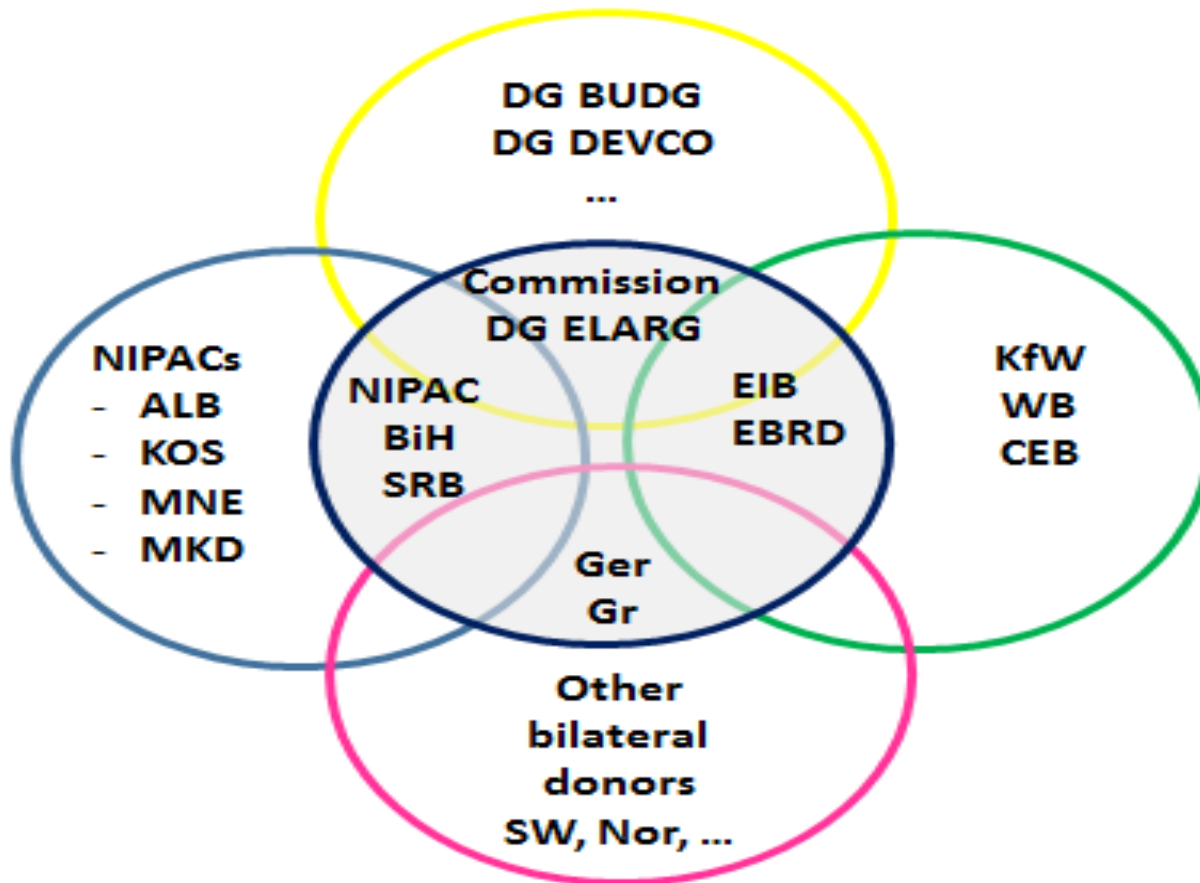
Restricted Task Force

Joint Position Paper

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DG ELARG D3



RTF Set-up



Mandate:

- *Issues pertaining to the EWBJF (Joint Fund);*

- *The development of a **coherent methodology for co-financing**;*
- *Distinction “**regional and national**”; definition of clear criteria – given the EU regional and national envelopes;*
- *Distinction “**mature / not mature projects**” and the definition of clear criteria for project maturity;*
- ***NIC** framework;*



RTF submits the following position (1):

*The RTF comes to the conclusion that there is **no need to change the founding documents of the WBIF** - the ToR of the Joint Grant Facility (JGF) and the GC of the Joint Fund (EWBJF). This entails also that there is **no need to change the decision making process within the WBIF**. It emphasises the common understanding that any possible amendments to founding documents in the future could only be decided upon by the WBIF Steering Committee.*



RTF submits the following position (2):

*The structural changes regarding the **IPA fund management requirements under the new Financial Regulation** – with implications for transferring of IPA funds to the EWBJF – is an **internal EC issue**. Hence, the RTF recommends the **WBIF SC to take note of the changes proposed by the Commission** (applicable from 01/01/2015). The new implementation structure for the WBIF entails (in principle) for EC financial contributions a **two stage approach (global and complementary financing decision)***



RTF submits the following position (3):

“Coherent Methodology for Co-financing”:
recommendation to adopt the principles of WBIF projects being classified as “not mature – Group 1 (TA)” and “mature – Group 2 (investment co-financing)” projects (with certain flexibility)

- i. support both TA for national and regional Group 1 projects, intended to make these projects mature, up to 100%, and*
- ii. support implementation of regional Group 2 projects (this could include TA necessary for implementation), subject to a maximum co-financing thresholds per sector (with certain flexibility)*



RTF submits the following position (4):

*Concerning the delineation of “**regional and national**” projects, the RTF recommends adopting a more generic and higher level definition of the term “regional” per sector, as provided by the European Commission for better prioritisation (with certain flexibility).*

Connectivity: *It is a fundamental requirement that the proposed regional investment priorities form a coherent network along the extended EU Corridors in the region in line with TEN-T and TEN-E guidelines.*



RTF submits the following position (5):

NIC framework:

- The NIC Framework, including the methodology for infrastructure project prioritization, will **need to be gradually introduced in beneficiary countries** and should serve as a basis for programming of all available financing sources (incl. national and other donors).
- **Meanwhile**, it should be ensured that the **beneficiaries would have access to WBIF financing**. Concrete steps must be taken during 2015 and the **WBIF SC shall take stock** of the progress at its next meetings.
- After a transition phase, the NIC framework and the Single List of prioritised Projects will thus become **eventually a national requirement before projects are submitted to WBIF**; further support will be made available to the beneficiary countries



RTF submits the following position (6):

- **Revision clause:** WBIF SC to decide on possible changes, based on an assessment of the RTF in Paris in December 2015
- **Extended mandate** for the RTF to monitor and review the implementation of the new methodology/structure.



Thank you!