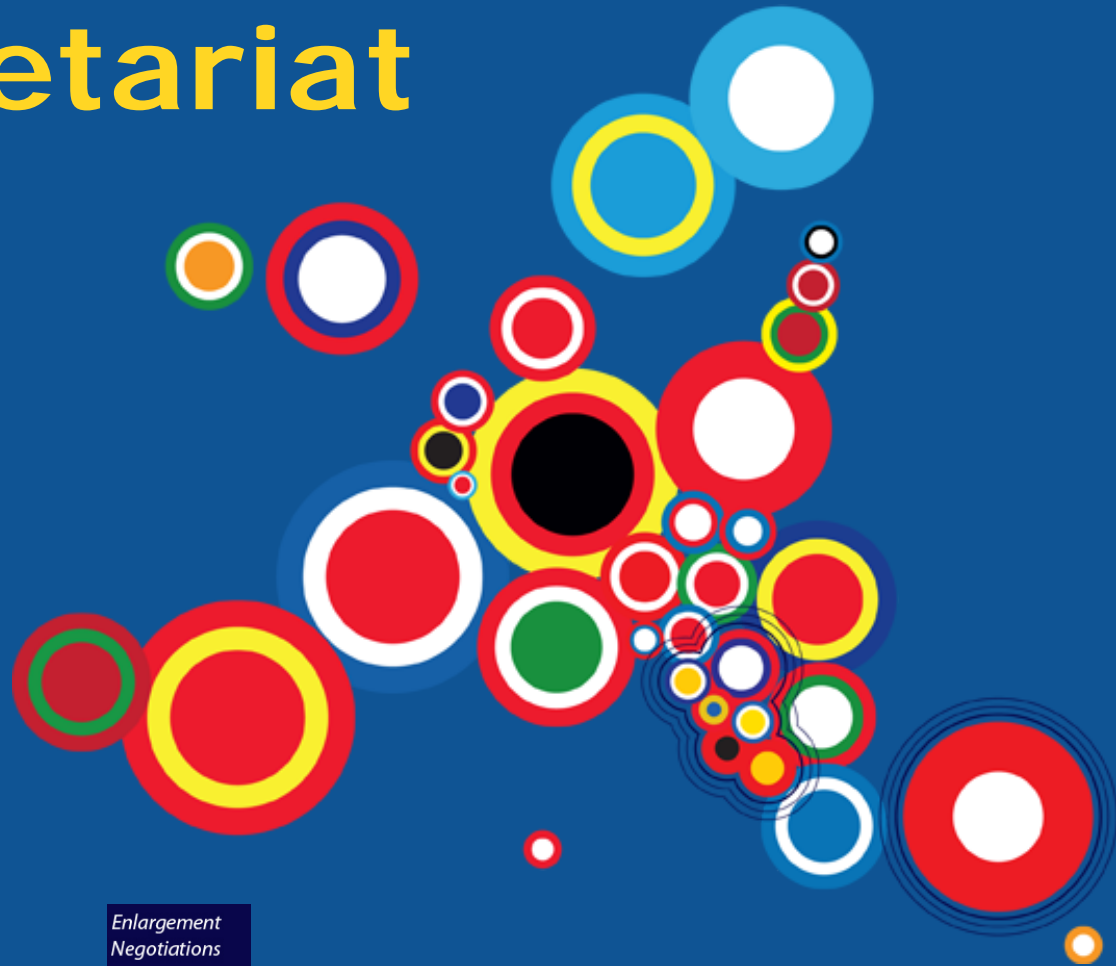




WBIF Secretariat Updates



25th WBIF PFG meeting
Skopje, 26 – 27 April 2018

Enlargement
Negotiations

Overview updates

- *WBIF Communication & Visibility Guidelines and Plan*
- *NIC reports*
- *Youth Education Sector Study*
- *WBIF mid-term review / self-assessment*
- *Proposed timeline*



WBIF Communication and Visibility Guidelines

01 to 31 May
for comments



WBIF Communication and Visibility Guidelines

Status: Draft v02
Date: 14 March 2018
Purpose: Dissemination, discussion, and finalization with WBIF key stakeholders

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WBIF Communication and Visibility Plan

**30 April to 15 May
for comments**



WBIF Communication and Visibility Plan May 2018 – May 2019

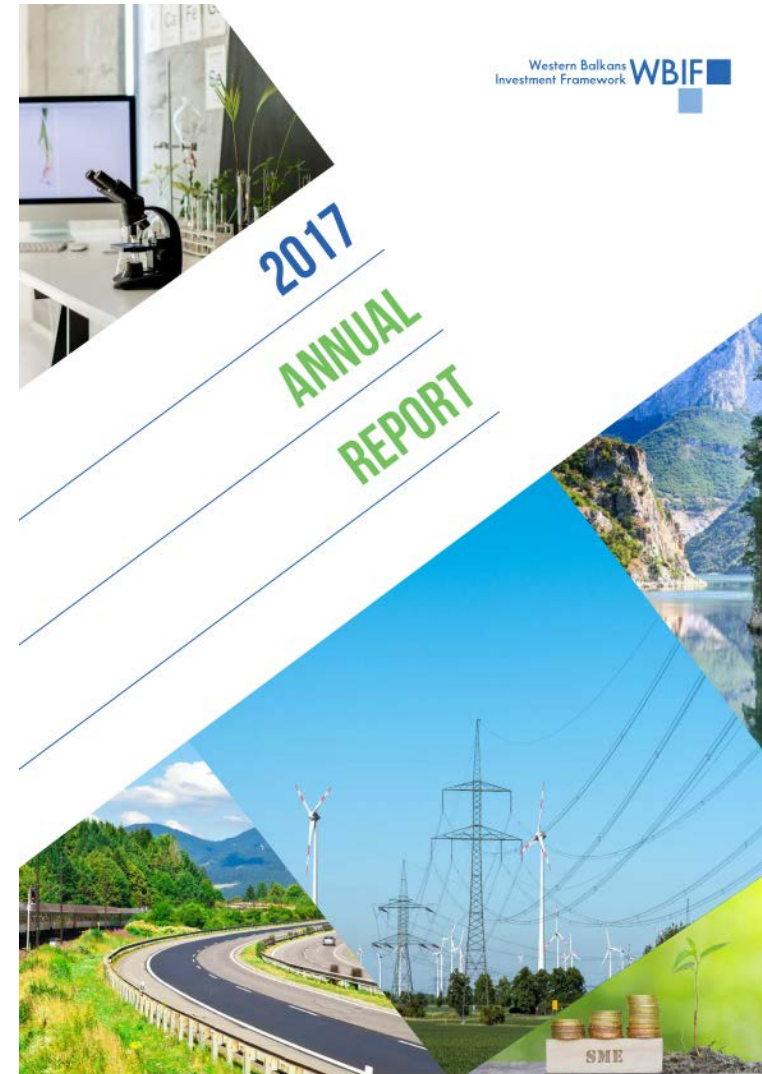
Status: Draft v03
Date: 14 April 2018
Purpose: Dissemination, discussion, and finalization with WBIF key stakeholders

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Publications

- *Annual Report: will be disseminated soon (at printers);*
- *Updates - factsheets: WBIF at a Glance, Sector, Bilateral Donors (work in progress);*
- *New Beneficiary factsheets (work in progress);*





Website Updates



Western Balkans Investment Framework **WBIF**

- Home
- About
- Projects
- News & Events
- Sectors**
- Beneficiaries
- Library
- Gallery

Search:

Page to PDF · My Dashboard

Connectivity Agenda

Connectivity Agenda

Improving connectivity within the Western Balkans, as well as between the Western Balkans and the European Union, constitutes a key factor for growth and jobs and will bring clear benefits for the region's economies and citizens. The Western Balkans Six (WB6) have made the connectivity agenda one of their highest priorities, with a special emphasis on the preparation and financing of concrete regional infrastructure investment projects and on the implementation of technical standards and reform measures (e.g.: aligning/simplifying border crossing procedures, railway reforms, information systems, road safety and maintenance schemes, unbundling and third-party access).

- Energy
- Environment
- Private Sector Development
- Social
- Transport
- Connectivity Agenda**

At a Glance

Number of projects:	10
Investment value:	€1,377,921,000
Grant value:	€ 507,017,500
Loan value:	€690,000,000



Links

Documents

- [Overview of Connectivity Agenda Projects](#)
- [2015-2017 Connectivity Agenda Projects: Progress to Date](#)
- [Connectivity Agenda: Co-financing of Investment Projects in the Western Balkans in 2017](#)
- [Connectivity Agenda: Co-financing of Investment Projects in the Western Balkans in 2016](#)
- [Connectivity Agenda: Co-financing of Investment Projects in the Western Balkans in 2015](#)



Website Updates

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) website. The top navigation bar includes the European Union flag, a search bar, and menu items: Home, About, Projects, News & Events, Sectors, Beneficiaries, Library, and Gallery. The "About" menu is open, showing options: About the WBIF, Bilateral Donors, WBIF Secretariat, How to Apply for a WBIF Grant?, and Contacts. The main content area features a large image of power lines against a sunset sky. A text box at the bottom of the image reads: "The Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) supports socio-economic development and EU accession across the Western Balkans through the provision of finance and technical assistance for strategic investments, particularly in infrastructure, energy efficiency, and private sector development. It is a joint initiative of the EU, International Financial institutions, bilateral donors, and the governments of the Western Balkans." In the top right corner, there are links for "Page to PDF" and "My Dashboard".

Update NIC report

- *IFICO 2 product;*
- *Stakeholder consultation done by new IFICO, finalisation still ongoing;*
- *Main findings:*
 - NIC framework fully transposed and operational everywhere apart from BiH;
 - Additional support needed in prioritisation and integration of SPP into mid-term financial planning;
 - Additional capacity building needed in NICs and Line Ministries.

Update YESS

- *Largely done by IFICO 2;*
- *Stakeholder consultation finished;*
- *Finalisation work in progress;*
- *Main Findings:*
 - Significant potential for YE sector;
 - Fiscal space and non-revenue nature are barriers;
 - Mismatch between education system and market demands;
 - Lack of planning capacities.

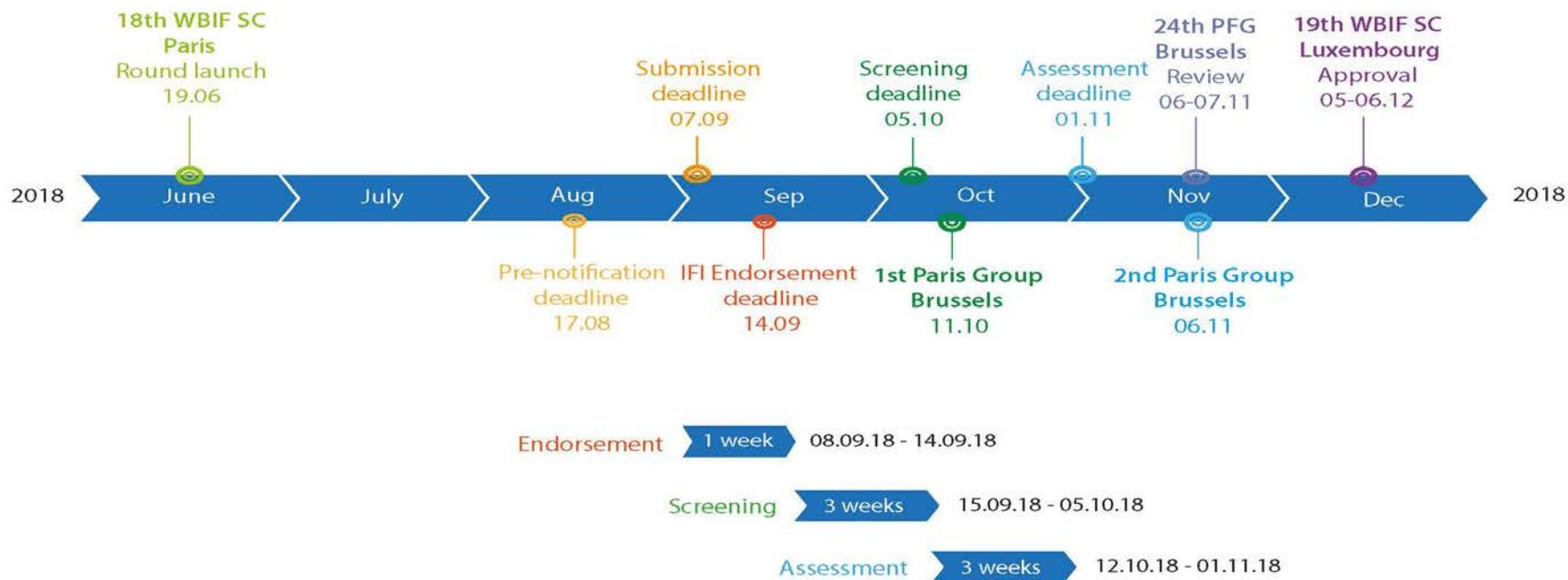
WBIF mid term review

- *Announcement by DG NEAR @ 13th WBIF SC meeting in Paris “[...] confirmed that a review [regarding the new methodology] by the COM would be carried out in 2 years [...]”*
- *Discussion points:*
 - Self assessment rather than external
 - WBIF stakeholder representation
 - Timing



Timeline Overview

TA Round 20





WBIF Timeline Rounds

- ***TA Round 20***

- Launch 18 WBIF SC, 19th June
- Pre-notification 17 August
- Submission d/I 07 September
- IFI endorsement 14 September
- Screening (3 weeks) 05 October
- Assessment (3+ weeks) 01 November

- ***IG Round 04***

- Pre-notification 02 November
- Submission d/I 30 November
- IFI endorsement 31 January 2019



WBIF Timeline meetings

- *1st PG in Brussels* *11 October*
- *2nd PG & PFG in Brussels* *06 – 07 November*
- *19th SC Luxembourg* *05 – 06 December*



Thank You!