

**28<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE WBIF PROJECT FINANCERS' GROUP, Brussels**  
**14 November 2019**

**Minutes of Meeting<sup>1</sup>**

**Policy and Strategy (open) Session**

*The PFG Co-Chairs Mr. Wolfgang Schläger and Mrs. Charlotte Ruhe* welcomed participants to the 28<sup>th</sup> PFG, and DG NEAR informed participants about the state of play of the IPA III negotiations. These are slightly delayed and are expected to be concluded in 2020. Under IPA III, all WBIF sectors will be eligible for INV grant co-financing from COM funds. Details on IPA III will be communicated to WBIF when the respective negotiations advance and relevant programming documents are prepared. In November 2019, the IPA Committee did approve the financing decision for the €183.6 million “Poznan” Connectivity Projects” and the €150 million for the new Western Balkan Guarantee Instrument.

**WBIF 2.0 Evolution - Update from the Working Group**

**DG NEAR** (Wolfgang Schläger) presented the preliminary findings and draft recommendations of the WBIF 2.0 Working Group (WG). At the time when the “new” methodology was introduced and adopted in 2015, a decision was taken at the 13<sup>th</sup> WBIF SC meeting that a mid-term review will be carried out, organised by the COM. The WBIF Self-assessment was thus initiated by DG NEAR in 2018. At the same time, an IAS audit was conducted and an IPF evaluation report in 2019. The WBIF 2.0 WG was established at the 27<sup>th</sup> PFG with the mandate to review and discuss these reviews and to propose a set of recommendations to the 28<sup>th</sup> PFG for further elaboration and submission of a set of high-level recommendations to the 21<sup>st</sup> WBIF SC for approval.

The WG submitted a set of 5 recommendations<sup>2</sup>.

**Recommendation Nr. 1: Advance WBIF 2.0 (governance) and complete EDIF integration**

- WBIF SC: all WBIF SC meetings will, in the future, be 3 half day sessions: (1) Strategy (2) Infrastructure and Connectivity and (3) Private Sector Development.
- The WBIF and EDIF governance (deliberation and decision making) structures will remain intact.
- Extended observer status for (a) WBIF stakeholders in each other’s meetings and (b) for EU Member States and relevant institutions.

<sup>1</sup> **Note to the reader:** The minutes of meeting (MoM) follow the actual meeting and reflect the sequence of presentations. Therefore, these MoM deviate from the agenda. The WBIF Secretariat update presentation has been uploaded to the WBIF website. Inserts in [square brackets] are of editorial nature.

<sup>2</sup> These can be found in the presentation, the respective background paper and are presented together with the points raised by various stakeholders. The MoM reflect the discussions as it took place.

- Efficiency gains: (a) En bloc approval of projects, applications; (b) “non obtrusive” integration of EFSE, REEP and GGF, (c) joint use (where possible) of MIS and GAF and (d) joint organisation of meetings.

### **Discussion**

**Kosovo\*** (Lum Mita) enquired if half days were also planned for the other (to be integrated) initiatives and requested clarification if the deadlines [proposed in Annex V of the background paper] for beneficiaries are indicative. **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (Nermina Saracevic) reported on the first NIPAC/NIC coordination meeting and expressed the beneficiaries’ general commitment to WBIF 2.0’s evolution and their reservation to the integration of “other initiatives” due to capacity constraints; further questioned if the “A List” is needed in the absence of a “B” list. The participation of SC and PFG meetings should remain as it is, i.e. 2 NIPAC and 1 NIC representative, the role of representatives from the Ministry of Economy needs to be clarified; in addition, underlined that in the future all NIPAC representatives would like to be part of current and future working groups on WBIF’s evolution. **Italy** (Raffaella Di Emidio) requested details on the integration of other initiatives, such as GGF, with different governance structures. **KfW** (Constanze Kreiss) seconded Italy on details on GGF and EFSE’s integration; in addition, ways how to integrate the “Green Agenda” in the WBIF SC meeting should be explored; the B Session should be called “Sector Session” thus being “sector neutral” and questioned if a 2<sup>nd</sup> PG meeting is required. Moreover, different formats for the SC should be explored to allow for a more lively and interactive discussion. **Germany** (Sabrina Brabetz) requested clarity on the voting rules of the (extended) WBIF SC and raised concerns on how lively discussions will be conducted in the future, given the extended audience of the meetings, a more appropriate name for the B-session given DG Near will invest also in ENV and SOC projects and if or not Bilateral Donors will be invited as observers to the “C” EDIF Session.

**DG NEAR** and the **WBIF Secretariat** (Wolfgang Schläger, Stine Andresen) clarified: no additional half days for other initiatives are planned. The “A” list (term) can be replaced by “*en-bloc*” approval, the aim is to become more efficient and to free up time for other discussions. The “B Session” can be called “Sector Session”. Further reflections are needed on the voting rights in the “A Strategy Session”. NIPACs are expected to coordinate IPA funded projects; the beneficiaries’ representatives at the meetings will need to be appropriate; e.g. beneficiary representatives at WB EDIF meetings are from the Ministry of Economy or Investment Agencies. Other initiatives will be integrated under the strategic umbrella in an appropriate manner, ensuing efficiencies are kept and stakeholders will not be overburdened. All WBIF stakeholders should have observer status in each other’s meetings. The proposed deadlines for beneficiaries are a measure to reduce delays and (also) for monitoring reasons, however, these deadlines are not set in cast and stone. When the 21<sup>st</sup> WBIF SC takes a decision on the adoption of the first (agreed) WBIF 2.0 measures, a “review clause” will be inserted, enabling WBIF to review the suitability and efficiency of the introduced measures and to further optimize these, with a view of more elaborated discussions in 2020 along IPA III developments.

### **Recommendation Nr. 2: Implement IAS Audit & Reporting amendments**

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\* 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.

- Reporting will be further streamlined & new deadlines introduced for the Annual Implementation Report, the Summary Implementation Report (SIR) and the Final Implementation Report.
- The WBIF Monitoring Report will only be produced once per year for the June WBIF SC meeting. A Portfolio review with each lead IFI will be conducted twice per year.
- The MIS will be updated accordingly (a respective WBIF 2.0 sub WG will convene).

### **Discussion**

**Sweden** (Johan Willert) enquired if economisation of reporting could be taken further, for example regarding the SIR and the Monitoring Report. **EIB** (Massimo Cingolani) clarified the basis for these reports and **DG NEAR** (Wolfgang Schläger) referred to the reporting flow chart (see Annex 1 to these MoM).

### **Recommendation Nr. 3: Implement technical efficiency gains (GAF drafting, ToR preparation and sub-project implementation)**

- Improvement of GAF:
  - Introduce a better/more detailed description of the action and justification of the requested budget.
  - Add a skeleton scope of works ToR to the GAF, for example as an Annex.
  - Enforce stricter screening & assessment and cancellation of slow or not moving grants.
- Allocation of Detailed Design (DD) and Tender Documents (TD) preparation sub-projects to IPFs:
  - Only mature projects (ESIA and Preliminary Design are final) are allocated to IPFs.
  - IPFs remain in general eligible for DD and TD projects, allocation must be:
    - in first 24 months of IPF's (duration) for SOC and ENV sectors, and
    - within the first 18 months for ENE and TRA sectors.
  - Existing studies for sub-projects need IFI & beneficiary verification (if these studies were not done by an IPF).
- Introduction of deadlines for beneficiaries [shown in the background paper, Annex 5], with the aim of reducing delays:
  - Provision of data & information, and
  - Beneficiaries' approvals of submissions.
- IFIs' requirements for technical documentation and ESIA should be reflected better in GAFs, ToR and sub-project Inception Report where appropriate, with a view of managing beneficiaries' expectations.
- Realisation of efficiencies in the ToR drafting process, through closer engagement of key stakeholders, EUDs, Lead IFIs and end-beneficiaries; organise joint "ToR drafting" kick-off meetings, invite also the implementing IPF and agree/verify scope, budget and main activities. The first draft ToR are sent to the beneficiary and the implementing IPF. Replace the Vademecum "conflict of interest" with other safeguards (allowing structured and limited engagement of IPFs in the ToR drafting process).

### **Discussion**

**Bosnia and Herzegovina** (Nermina Saracevic) raised general concerns about the obligation to introduce skeleton ToR and enquired about the level of detail expected for these skeleton ToR and whether the deadlines for beneficiaries could be extended for “Force majeure” type events. Also if a deadline could be introduced for assigning the IPF to the project within 2 months after the WBIF SC meeting. **Germany** (Sabrina Brabetz) enquired if there are any proposals for IPF (as such) improvement, questioned whether it would be feasible if DD and TD were only allocated in the first 18 or 24 months of an IPF, recommended to consider binding no-objections if the conflict of interest regime is replaced and requested a copy of the respective Court or Auditor’s opinion. **Sweden** (Johan Willert) questioned if the “other” recommendations of the IPF evaluation are deferred to 2020 and if “supervision of works” is confirmed as no longer eligible for IPFs. **KfW** (Bodo Schmülling) stated that the sequence PD, DD, TD depends on the construction contract (construction only, or design-build contracts) and thus the contractor will oversee DD (design-build contracts); and (Constanze Kreiss) recommended the workflow of ToR drafting be made clearer and caution in replacing the conflict of interest regime. **EBRD** (Caroline Clarkson) stated that the issue of “skeleton ToR” had not been agreed by the WG and more general, the disseminated Background Paper would benefit from more substance under the various recommendations. **Norway** (Olav Reinertsen) questioned if these proposals are ready for submission to the WBIF SC and if another dedicated WG session is required on these recommendations. **EIB** (Matteo Rivellini) enquired about the meaning of IFIs’ technical documentation requirements and to what extent of detail each IFI would need to enter. Apart from ESIA requirements, it remains to be clarified what extra information is needed. In addition, enquired, if this information need to be differentiated according to each sector.

**EBRD** (Donald Mishaxhiu) clarified that this should refer to ESIA requirements only.

**DG NEAR** (Wolfgang Schläger) clarified that the WBIF SC meeting will take high level decisions only and mandate a dedicated WG with the implementation of the adopted recommendations. Some topics merit further discussion and more details will be provided, for example on the conflict of interest issue. The recommendations pertaining to the IPFs might be taken out from the background paper and to be seen if final recommendations can be approved at the next WBIF SC meeting. The IPF recommendations could also be decoupled from the decisions on WBIF 2.0.

**EIB** (Massimo Cingolani) recommended that the GAF improvement measures are not postponed to the next [June] WBIF SC (since these issues have been discussed at length and the improvement of the GAFs is necessary independently from the discussion on IPF). **Germany** (Sabrina Brabetz) seconded EIB regarding the “no postponement”.

#### ***Recommendation Nr. 4: Further improve C&V, mandatory actions***

The WBIF Secretariat is mandated to further develop the guidelines, templates and structured processes for communication and visibility (C&V), with the aim to further improve C&V in the Western Balkans and to show impacts and results. For standard events and actions (such as IPF kick-off meetings or closing seminars), templates and guidelines will be developed.

#### ***Recommendation Nr. 5: Establish legal sub-WG reflecting amendments to governance documents and guidelines***

- Establishment of a sub-WG with updating of the WBIF governance documents - WBIF Rules of Procedure, EWBJF General Conditions and other legal documents.
- The update of other documents will be done by the WBIF Secretariat. This concerns the C&V guidelines, GAF updates in close cooperation with the IFIs and the Vademecum.

### **Discussion**

**EIB** (Massimo Cingolani) raised concerns about the ideal timing of updating the governance documents, duplication of work should be avoided. **EBRD** (Caroline Clarkson) stated that the General Conditions (GC) require revisions and improvements and recommended the GC update to be in parallel with the progress (maturity) of the IPA III. EBRD, as previously in 2016, offered to *hold the pen* on the revisions The Rules of Procedure (RoP) can be updated comparatively easier than the GCs.

**DG NEAR** (Wolfgang Schläger) recommended that the status of the WBG and AFD be reflected into the RoP and, since these can be approved by written procedure and should be done soon. Also, it is seen as more appropriate to finish the WBIF 2.0 before entering into WBIF 3.0 as there are too many uncertainties still with IPA III.

**The PFG Co-chairs** (Charlotte Ruhe and Wolfgang Schläger) concluded this session and summarised: (i) more substance will be added to relevant sections of the background paper (final set of recommendations for WBIF SC adoption), recommendations 1, 2, 4 and 5 will be submitted, the recommendations under No. 3 relating to IPFs will be deferred. The GAF improvement recommendations under No. 3 will also be revised and included in the submission (above). Participants were further invited to submit final comments to the Background Paper until 21 November COB.

## **Technical Update Session**

### **Presentation and priorities for the Renewable Energy Efficiency Programme (REEP):**

**KfW** (Bodo Schmülling) and **EBRD** (Remon Zakaria) presented an overview of the REEP/REEP Plus program and its 4 dedicated windows. Under window 1 “policy dialogue and ESCO development” 55 projects were prepared (street lightening, building and district heating) and 32 policy outputs so far adopted by relevant authorities. Under window 2 “Intermediate Financing” EBRD and KfW jointly financed 23 projects to date, resulting in a reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 131,8237 tonnes per year and an annual primary energy savings of 584,742 MWh. Under window 3 “Direct Financing” 6 projects were financed resulting in 325,974 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> reduction per year and under window 4 “Direct Lending to Public Sector” a first project has become operational (EE retrofit of the Zenica Hospital), where a reduction of energy consumption by 60% and heating demand by 44% are expected. The REEP extension under Windows 2 and 4 were presented, showing how €30 million in grants (€10 m for window 1 and €20 m for window 4) are expected to leverage €173 million in investments (IFI loans and EU grants). The key objectives for the REEP evolution were presented: (i) scaling up EE investments and further reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, (ii) promotion of EE standards in the WBs, (iii) increasing the lifetime of public building stock and the quality of public goods by deep renovation and (iv) stimulation and creation of local jobs and employment opportunities, concrete case studies were shown.

**EIB** (Massimo Cingolani) enquired how projects, benefiting from REEP support, are selected and in particular details on the methodology followed to decide on the level of the grant and questioned the eligibility of a “military” hospital for grant support (Belgrade Military Medical Academy). **KfW** (Bodo Schmülling) clarified that the project in question is open to the public and over 90% of patients are civilians; under REEP a “pipeline” of eligible projects has been developed. **EBRD** (Remon Zakaria) further mentioned that the REEP program is oversubscribed and only projects with the best impacts are selected.

**DG NEAR** (Wolfgang Schläger) informed participants that under IPA III more funds can be expected for the REEP programme and that the current €30 million top-up will be approved via written procedure and be allocated through the Joint Fund.

### **Presentation – Progress and Future Plans for Corridor Vc**

**EIB** (Piers Vickers) and **EBRD** (Donald Mishaxhiu) presented the progress on Corridor Vc, a historically important transport route through the WBs, linking Budapest with Ploce/Mediterranean Sea. More than 50% of Bosnia’s population lives near this corridor and over 60% of Bosnia’s GDP is generated along Corridor Vc; therefore, it is one of the most important infrastructure projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As of January 2019, 100 km out of the total 322km have been built in the Federation and in the Republika Srpska, 76 km are under construction and expected to be completed by 2023. Overall, the costs for the 322 km of Corridor Vc in Bosnia and Herzegovina are estimated around €4 billion. 146 km of Corridor Vc need to secure financing; financing options include further substantial contributions from both EIB and EBRD, Chinese financing and PPPs are also under discussion, as is a fuel excise levy, which could finance a substantial amount of debt for the coming 5 years. Electronic tolling may also enhance the funding situation.

### **Priorities for Digital Infrastructure - Update of the WBIF Guidelines for future calls**

**DG Connect** (David Ringrose) updated participants on the latest developments and advances of the Digital Agenda, introduced as one of the Flagships of the 2018 WB Strategy. Meanwhile, as part of the next long-term EU budget, the Commission has proposed the Digital Europe Programme, which supports deployment of digital technologies for the digital transformation of Europe’s society and economy; it focuses on supercomputing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, advanced digital skills, 5G and Digital Innovation Hubs. The Western Balkans ICT sector should be advanced in parallel, ensuring the WBs will benefit from this vibrant market at an as early as possible stage. WBIF could support this by preparing a pipeline of potential projects ensuring the WB region can take active part in the programme, for example, areas like broadband, e-Infrastructures for scientific data and High-performance computing (HPC). The WBIF DII guidelines should be amended as follows:

- (1) DII Guideline 1: The main priority remains broadband roll-out, including mapping of existing infrastructure; ensuring supply of basic services to citizens and businesses and targeted TA to identify projects for INV co-financing.
- (2) DII Guideline 2: widening of scope to (i) connecting all socio-economic drivers (businesses, schools, public services, etc.), (ii) e-infrastructure addressing the needs of scientists and

researchers for digital services for networking, computing and data management, (iii) high performance computing.

Examples for this widened scope could be: broadband mapping, rural/urban broadband development, fixed-wireless for sparsely populated areas, Balkans Digital Highway, infrastructure-sharing, research infrastructures and HPC mapping. Digital components in the transport sector are not eligible under DII but rather should be tried under the TRA sector. The guidelines will be circulated ahead of the WBIF SC meeting.

**Italy** (Raffaella Di Emidio) enquired if DII should be included under connectivity. **Germany** (Thomas Motak) enquired if the remaining €25 million [€5 million allocated to the existing DII projects] from the original COM pledge for DII are still available and where DG Connect stands with 5G security. **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (Nermina Saracevic) recommended a phased approach in introducing DII in the WBs, since the relevant strategies have not been adopted everywhere and questioned if the [unused] funds should not be used for other sectors; the next Round for TA should not be limited to DII. **Montenegro** (Bojan Vujovic) enquired if the eligibility of DII could be extended to e-government.

**DG NEAR** (Wolfgang Schläger) confirmed that the Sofia Summit pledge for DII is “up to” €30 million and is for DII projects until the end of 2020. **DG Connect** (David Ringrose) informed that DG Connect is conducting a comprehensive risk assessment for 5G and a first report to this end was released on 9 October; DII, in the view of DG Connect, is to be included under connectivity; a pipeline of potential INV projects should be build up and the initial exercise for this purpose are mapping exercises.

### Project Oriented Session (partly closed)

#### INV Round 04

**DG NEAR** (Wolfgang Schläger) updated participants on the advances of INV Round 04, launched at the 18th SC meeting in Paris (18-19 June 2018). Overall, 20 INV GAFs were received for a total of €374.8 million in grant. The overall connectivity relevant grant request was €354 million. The following beneficiaries submitted GAFs: ALB 1, BiH 10, KOS 2, MKD 3, MNE 2, SRB 2 in the following sectors: TRA 11, ENE 2 and ENV 7.

The INV grants endorsed by the PFG for approval are shown in the table below.

#	Grant code	Sector	Beneficiary	Lead IFI	Short title	Grant incl. imp. fee (€)
1	WB-IG04-KOS-ENV-01	ENV	Kosovo	EBRD	Gjilan WWTP and Sewerage Network Extension and Rehabilitation	2,550,000
2	WB-IG04-MNE-ENV-01	ENV	Montenegro	KfW	Boka Bay Water Supply and Wastewater Collection Phase 2	4,467,231
3	WB-IG04-BIH-ENV-02	ENV	Bosnia and Herzegovina	EIB	WATSAN RS: Lokanj-Pilica Water Supply Phase 1 & Small WWTP for Tabanci in the Municipality of Zvornik	606,900
4	WB-IG04-BIH-ENV-04	ENV	Bosnia and Herzegovina	EIB	WATSAN FBiH: Water Supply Investments on the Right Side of the	1,530,000

#	Grant code	Sector	Beneficiary	Lead IFI	Short title	Grant incl. imp. fee (€)
					River Vrbas and Reduction of Water Losses in the Municipality of Jajce	
<b>Subtotal Environment</b>						<b>9,154,131</b>
5	WB-IG04-MKD-ENE-01	ENE	North Macedonia	EIB	North Macedonia – Greece Gas Interconnection Pipeline	12,724,00
6	WB-IG04-SRB-ENE-01	ENE	Serbia	KfW	Trans-Balkan Electricity Corridor: Obrenovac – Bajina Basta Section	13,101,800
<b>Subtotal Energy</b>						<b>25,825,800</b>
7	WB-IG04-BIH-TRA-01	TRA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	EBRD	Mediterranean Corridor (CVC): Putnikovo Tunnel – Medakovo Interchange Subsection	15,932,000
8	WB-IG04-BIH-TRA-02	TRA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	EBRD	Mediterranean Corridor (CVC): Poprikuse – Nemila Subsection	42,099,480
9	WB-IG04-BIH-TRA-06	TRA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	EBRD	Mediterranean Corridor (CVC): Rudanka Interchange – Putnikovo Tunnel Section	38,768,800
10	WB-IG04-KOS-TRA-02	TRA	Kosovo	EBRD	Orient/East-Med Corridor: General Rehabilitation of Railway Route 10, Signalling & Telecoms for Phase 1& 2	27,394,758
11	WB-IG04-MKD-TRA-01	TRA	North Macedonia	EBRD	Orient/East-Med Corridor (CX): Tabanovce Railway Joint Border Station and Access Road	2,765,227
12	WB-IG04-MKD-TRA-02	TRA	North Macedonia	EBRD	Orient/East-Med Corridor (R6a): Blace – Skopje (Stenkovec Interchange) Section	27,225,128
<b>Subtotal Transport</b>						<b>154,185,393</b>
<b>Subtotal Connectivity</b>						<b>180,011,193</b>
<b>TOTAL FOR APPROVAL (21<sup>st</sup> WBIF SC)</b>						<b>189,165,324</b>
<b>PFG endorsed application postponed to the next round</b>						
1	WB-IG04-BIH-TRA-05	TRA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	EIB	Mediterranean Corridor (CVC): Kvanj Tunnel – Buna Motorway Subsection	21,106,084

**Bosnia and Herzegovina** (Sabina Dizdarevic) enquired on the remaining funds of the “€1 billion” pledge for INV Round 05 and whether the two WATSAN projects can be financed. **EIB** (Massimo Cingolani) confirmed EIB’s commitment to the two WATSAN projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina. **Germany** (Sabrina Brabetz) expressed the BD’s satisfaction that the concerns raised by the BDs have been addressed by various stakeholders and confirmed that subject to enough funds available at the next WBIF SC meeting, the two WATSAN projects can be financed from BD contributions.

**DG NEAR** (Wolfgang Schläger) informed participants that DG NEAR will be injecting additional funds into the EWBJF, over a total amount of €14 million, which can be used for TA in all sectors. For INV Round 05, around €120 million will be available.

### Status update: Joint Fund Balance

**EBRD** (Jasmin Khalaf) presented the status of the EWBIF highlighting the contributions to the EWBIF throughout the years and an available balance (not contributed by the COM) of €7.29 million.

### Bilateral Donors Statement

**The WBIF SC Co-chair Germany** (Sabrina Brabetz) presented the outcome of the BD meeting:

- (1) The BD community appreciates the participation of DG NEAR in the first so held and called “Brussels Group” meeting (BDs and DG NEAR), which turned out to be beneficial for the exchange of ideas, definition of priorities and management of expectations.
- (2) The increase in funds and the widening of WBIF’s scope means an increase in workload, therefore the BD community is concerned about available capacities in other stakeholder groups. In order to remain efficient, this issue will need to be addressed, if WBIF aims to be seen as “best practice” example and reference point also in the future.
- (3) BDs would appreciate receiving *not-MIS dependent* documents and background papers earlier, at least 2 weeks ahead of meetings.
- (4) BDs would appreciate more transparency on available COM funds.
- (5) The visibility kit for WBIF should be ready in January to reflect the decisions of the SC in December.
- (6) Announcement on a WBIF information event in Brussels on 26 November organized by Germany as Co-Chair and supported by the Commission, WBIF-Secretariat, IFICO and EBRD in its function as PFG Co-Chair. The aim is to activate new and “passive” Bilateral Donors.

**DG NEAR** and the **WBIF Secretariat** (Wolfgang Schläger, Stine Andresen) confirmed the positive view of the Brussels Group meeting and that the resource issue has been addressed also at DG NEAR level, a new team member was introduced: Mr Michael Vögele. In addition, the contract for IFICO TA has been extended and IFICO will continue to assist DG NEAR and WBIF until February 2022. The visibility kit will be prepared and updated as proposed, following the IFI MIS update in May each year, the WBIF Secretariat will try to make parts of the visibility kit available to the BDs at an earlier stage.

### Presentation of WBIF draft Monitoring Report

The **WBIF Secretariat** (Stine Andresen) presented the draft WBIF semi-annual monitoring report. Highlights include:

- 187 projects supported
- €19.9 estimated project value
- €5.6 billion loans signed
- €6.8 billion estimated loans
- €1 billion grant value
- 313 grants approved

The above grant figures and numbers include implementation fees and exclude cancellations.

## Screening and assessment of TA Round 22 Projects (closed session from hereon)

The **WBIF Secretariat** (Stine Andresen) recalled the TA Round 22 eligibility criteria set at the 20<sup>th</sup> WBIF SC meeting in Berlin, the call was restricted to DII only. Overall, 7 applications were received for a total grant request of €7.4 million; applications were submitted by the following beneficiaries: ALB 3, KOS 2, SRB 1, REG 1.

The **PFG Co-chairs**, followed by brief confirmation by the IFIs, presented the following GAFs which were screened and assessed positively and will be recommended for approval to the 21<sup>st</sup> WBIF SC subject, in some cases, to further clarifications (the respective GAFs are to be updated ahead of the 21<sup>st</sup> WBIF SC):

#	Grant code	Sector	Beneficiary	Lead IFI	Co-financier	Title	Grant amount submitted <sup>1</sup>	Grant amount revised <sup>1</sup>	Selection conclusion	Source of funds
1	WB22-ALB-DII-02	DII	Albania	EIB		Detail Design, ESIA and Tender Documents for the Pilot Project for Rural Broadband Development (Shkodra, Kukes, Tropoja, Dibra - part of the 100 Villages Programme)	700,000	700,000	Positive	IPF
2	WB22-ALB-DII-03	DII	Albania	AFD		Feasibility Study and Detail Design for 5G Pilot Project in Tirana	500,000	-	Negative	-
3	WB22-ALB-DII-04	DII	Albania	AFD		Feasibility Study and Detail Design for the Establishment of the Regional Digital Transformation Academy	700,000	-	Negative	-
4	WB22-KOS-DII-01	DII	Kosovo <sup>4</sup>	EIB		Feasibility Study for Connecting Primary and Secondary Schools in Kosovo	1,300,000	800,000	Positive	IPF
5	WB22-KOS-DII-03	DII	Kosovo	EIB	CEB	Feasibility Study for the Development of e-Health in Kosovo	1,100,000	-	Negative	-
6	WB22-SRB-DII-01	DII	Serbia	EBRD		Next Generation Broadband Connectivity for Rural Schools in White Zones: Fixed Broadband Mapping, FS with CBA, ESIA, Conceptual Designs and Preliminary Designs	1,700,000	1,700,000	Positive	JF

<sup>1</sup> Grant amount excluding implementation fee.

#	Grant code	Sector	Beneficiary	Lead IFI	Co-financier	Title	Grant amount submitted <sup>1</sup>	Grant amount revised <sup>1</sup>	Selection conclusion	Source of funds
7	WB22-REG-DII-02	DII	Regional	WBG		Preparatory Studies for the Balkans Digital Highway	1,400,000	725,000	Positive	JF
<b>Total</b>							<b>7,400,000</b>	<b>3,925,000</b>		

In reply to a question from **Germany** (Sabrina Brabetz) WBG and EBRD stated that they would prefer their projects to be financed via the Joint Fund.

Two TA projects that were screened and assessed positively in TA Round 21 will also be recommended for approval to the 21st WBIF SC:

#	Grant code	Sector	Beneficiary	Lead IFI	Title	Grant submitted (€)	Grant revised (€)	Grant incl. imp. fee (€)	Source of funds
1	WB21-KOS-ENV-01	ENV	Kosovo	EBRD	Development of a Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plan for Kosovo	500,000	300,000	312,000	JF
2	WB21-KOS-ENV-03	ENV	Kosovo	KfW	Pristina Sewage and Rainwater Network: Feasibility study/ Masterplan for Pristina Agglomeration	540,800	500,000	520,000	JF
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>1,040,800</b>	<b>800,000</b>	<b>832,000</b>	

**Germany (Sabrina Brabetz)** confirmed the BD support for these two projects subject to enough funds available at the next WBIF SC meeting.

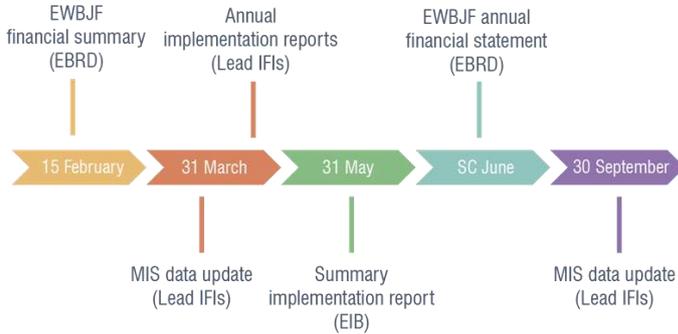
**DG NEAR** (Wolfgang Schläger) informed participants, that the WBIF Secretariat will review the overall status of “available” funds, given the additional €14 million contribution by the COM to the Joint Fund, overhang from previous rounds, funds needed for pending written procedures and the BDs’ announcement to finance TA and INV projects to the extent of sufficient BD contributions are available. Following this assessment, the WBIF Secretariat will, in writing, inform the PFG on realistic restrictions, eligibility criteria and options for TA Round 23.

*End of minutes of meeting.*

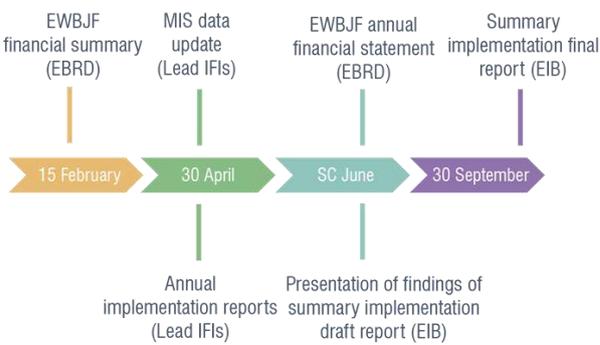
## Annex 1: Reporting Flowchart

### Reporting under the EWBJF

Existing requirements:

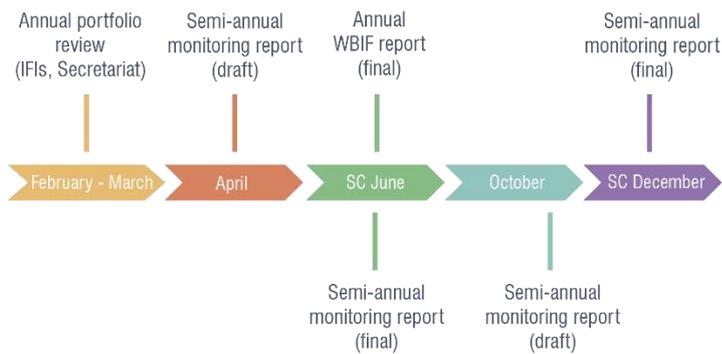


Proposed requirements:



### Reporting at WBIF level

Existing requirements:



Proposed requirements:

