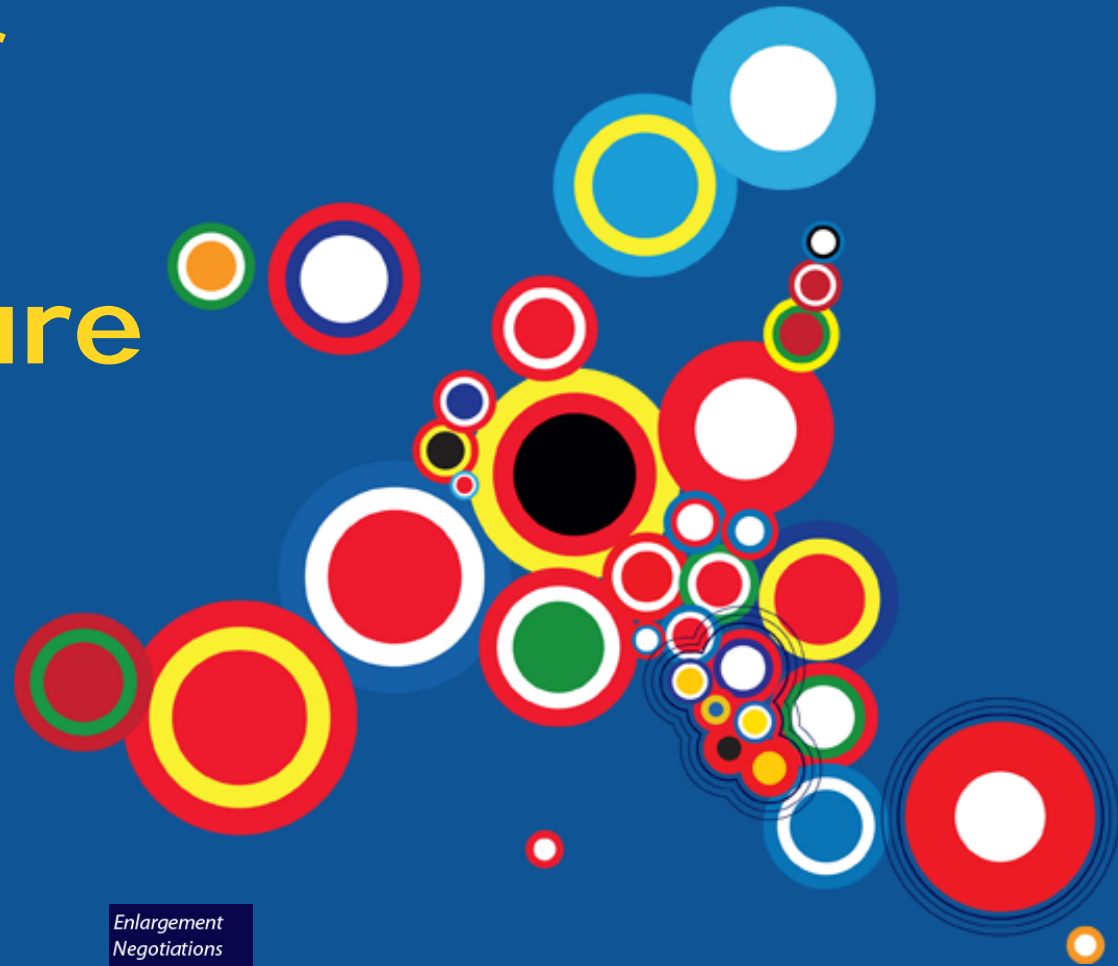




Eligibility of Digital Infrastructure under WBIF



Project Financiers' Group
Sarajevo, 9 Nov 2017

*Enlargement
Negotiations*



WB6 Digital Agenda

- *At Trieste summit in July 2017, Prime Ministers endorsed a multi-annual action plan for digital development as part of the "Regional Economic Area".*
- *Key policy areas of the digital action plan:*
 - *broadband connectivity;*
 - *cyber security;*
 - *eSkills;*
 - *digitisation of industry.*



Existing initiatives & EU requirements

- *Feasibility study for the “Balkans Digital Highway Initiative” (World Bank Group);*
- *“North Balkans Next Generation Access Network” (NOBAL NGA Network) Project;*
- *Directive 2014/61/EU requires measures to be realised reducing the cost of deploying high-speed ECNs and synergies should be sought between ENE, TRA, Telecom and other sectors, by reusing existing infrastructure.*



Discussion points

(1) Should WBIF consider Digital Infrastructure as additional eligible sector?

(2) Assistance could be provided (for example) in:

a. analysing broadband needs and gaps (both for digital service infrastructures and broadband networks); and / or

b. supporting the roll-out of broadband networks, especially in remote and less populated areas through TA to prepare relevant projects in an efficient and timely manner.