

## Launch of INV Round 4 and TA Round 20

The 18th WBIF Steering Committee launched two new calls for project proposals at its meeting on 18-19 June 2018 in Paris: TA Round 20 for technical assistance, and INV Round 4 for investment co-financing.

### TA Round 20

The eligibility criteria for technical assistance grants in TA Round 20 are as follows:

- The call is open for all six eligible sectors provided that national sector strategies have been adopted. Digital infrastructure is exempt from the conditionality relating to national sector strategies;
- Digital infrastructure, energy, environment, and social projects are not restricted and applications for new projects are invited;
- However, energy projects must demonstrate a regional impact, with the exception of smart grids in transmission and distribution lines as well as smart meters;
- Transport projects must have a clear regional dimension, or unblock an existing project, and must relate to the Core Network.

For the avoidance of doubt, only Core airports, Core inland waterway ports, and Core maritime ports as defined under the Indicative Extension of the TEN-T Network to the Western Balkans are eligible for technical assistance grants.

The following deadlines and timetable apply to TA Round 20:

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|---|---------------------|
| • Launch  | 19 June 2018        |
| • Pre-notification deadline                             | 17 August 2018      |
| • Submission deadline                                   | 7 September 2018    |
| • Lead IFI endorsement deadline                         | 14 September 2018   |
| • Screening deadline                                    | 3 October 2018      |
| • 1 <sup>st</sup> Paris Group (Brussels)                | 11 October 2018     |
| • Assessment deadline                                   | 1 November 2018     |
| • 2 <sup>nd</sup> Paris Group (Brussels)                | 6 November 2018     |
| • 26 <sup>th</sup> Project Financier's Group (Brussels) | 6 - 7 November 2018 |
| • 19th WBIF Steering Committee (Luxembourg)             | 5 - 6 December 2018 |

The selection process will give precedence to high quality applications for technical assistance for priority projects.

The grant requests must be pre-notified (registered) and submitted online via the WBIF MIS. The grant application form and guidelines for technical assistance are available on the WBIF website, under [How to apply for a WBIF grant](#). Please note that the conditions and requirements specified in these documents will be binding on successful applications.

While the ownership of the applications remains with the beneficiaries, the involvement of the Lead IFIs is needed early in the preparation of the applications. Following the submission and screening of applications and upon the Lead IFIs' initiative, the NIPACs can access the grant application

forms also in the assessment phase, enabling the beneficiaries to improve the applications in accordance with the screening conclusions (if needed) and take ownership of the final applications.

#### **INV Round 4**

The eligibility criteria for investment grants in INV Round 4 are as follows:

- The call is open for project proposals in the energy, environment, social, and transport sectors provided that national sector strategies have been adopted and project proposals are prioritised and identified in the “Single (National) Project Pipeline” compiled within the remit of the National Investment Committee or equivalent national structures;
- Energy, environment, and social projects are not restricted and new project applications are invited;
- However, energy projects must demonstrate a regional impact, with the exception of smart grids in transmission and distribution lines as well as smart meters;
- Transport projects must be part of the Core Network as defined under the Indicative Extension of the TEN-T Network to the Western Balkans.

For the avoidance of doubt, only Core airports, Core inland waterway ports, and Core maritime ports as defined under the Indicative Extension of the TEN-T Network to the Western Balkans are eligible for investment grants.

EU IPA funds can only be allocated for projects relevant under the Connectivity Agenda, i.e. mature energy and transport projects. Environment and social projects can receive funding only from Bilateral Donors’ contributions to the European Western Balkans Joint Fund.

The following deadlines and timetable apply to INV Round 4:

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| • Launch  | 19 June 2018  |
| • Pre-notification deadline                         | 2 November 2018   |
| • Submission deadline                               | 30 November 2018  |
| • Lead IFI endorsement deadline                     | 31 January 2019   |
| • Screening and assessment deadline                 | 27 <sup>th</sup> Project Financiers Group, April / May 2019, Tirana |
| • 20 <sup>th</sup> WBIF Steering Committee (tbc)    | June 2019   |
| • 21 <sup>st</sup> WBIF Steering Committee (London) | December 2019   |

The selection process will give precedence to high quality applications for investment grants for priority projects.

The grant requests must be pre-notified (registered) and submitted by the National IPA Coordinators (NIPACs) via the WBIF MIS. The grant application form and guidelines for investment grants are available on the WBIF website, under [How to apply for a WBIF grant](#). Please note that the conditions and requirements specified in these documents will be binding on successful applications.

While the ownership of the applications remains with the beneficiaries, the involvement of the Lead IFIs is needed early in the preparation of the applications. Following the submission and screening of applications and upon the Lead IFIs’ initiative, the NIPACs can access the grant application forms also in the assessment phase, enabling the beneficiaries to improve the applications in accordance with the screening conclusions (if needed) and take ownership of the final applications.

Enquiries regarding the calls for proposals should be addressed to the WBIF Secretariat at [stine.andresen@ec.europa.eu](mailto:stine.andresen@ec.europa.eu), and IFICO at [steven.vandertouw@ificoord.eu](mailto:steven.vandertouw@ificoord.eu) and [elena.postolache@ificoord.eu](mailto:elena.postolache@ificoord.eu).

We are looking forward to continuing our cooperation to progress the important investment agenda of your country and the Western Balkans.

Yours sincerely,



**Stine Andresen**

Head of the Secretariat for the Western Balkans Investment Framework

