



WBIF Restricted Task Force

State of Play





Background on Restricted Task Force (RTF)

In accordance with the last WBIF Steering Committee meetings decision, the RTF was established in July 2014. To date, there were 2 RTF meetings and several written exchanges plus bilateral meetings.

Objective: present a joint position to the WBIF SC in LUX on:

1. Alignment of EWBJF with provisions of new FR

2. Coherent methodology for co-financing
3. Reviewing criteria for project maturity – both preparation and implementation
4. Distinction regional vs. national
5. The SPP and update on "NIC Framework" establishment

1. Alignment of EWBJF with provisions of new FR

- *Cornerstone of future set-up of WBIF to ensure that the foreseen IPA funds from the Multi-Country Programme for co-financing of infrastructure investments can be channelled via the WBIF*
- *Proposal of the COM seems to be acceptable – with some further technical details still to be clarified – alternatives?*
- *Advantage: In line with requirements of new FR; no major changes to WBIF decision making process*
- *Challenges regarding timeline and additional COM internal procedures*

2. Coherent methodology for co-financing

- *Under new approach of IPA Multi-Country Programme, not only TA but also co-financing of investment costs*
- *Uniform approach for all IPA financing regarding investments (national and regional envelope)*
- *Only applied to projects where IFIs are prepared to co-finance with loans*
- *TA continued to be financed up to 100%*
- *Proposal for maximum percentage of co-financing (= max. level of EU contribution to the total investment costs)*
- *Based on DG REGIO funding gap method, past experience and enlargement agenda (e.g. favouring renewable energy)*

3. Reviewing criteria for project maturity

- *Group I projects (TA for project preparation):
(pre-)feasibility studies, CBA, EIB, ...*

=> TA pillar of WBIF with one single interlocutor can finance national AND regional projects (variable set-up)

- *Group II projects (implementation of mature projects):
Detailed design, TD preparation, supervision, ...*

=> can be financed as part of an investment grant provided by IPA via the WBIF if regional project

4. Distinction regional vs. national

- *Ensure that scarce IPA funds are directed to priority investment projects*
=> *regional IPA funds for regional projects*
- *Connectivity – guiding principle (Berlin, Belgrade, ... Vienna) and new Commission*
- *Regional organisations (SEETO, Energy Community)*
More coordination required (how? Link to SPP/NIC process,...)

5. The SPP and update on NIC Framework

Three mandatory criteria of the NIC Framework

- *Ownership: to be demonstrated by the involvement / signing off of projects by the MoF and PM Office/Council of Ministers;*
- *Prioritisation: of projects and distinction of mature and not mature leading to a single list of prioritised projects ready for submission, based on objective criteria (followed by ownership);*
- *Transparency: to be demonstrated by the structured processing of projects through the project pipelines; which national key stakeholders are involved.*

NIC Framework Simplified Flow Chart

