



Western Balkans Investment Framework

Methodology for selection
and submission of WBIF
co-financed projects





Principles for selection /submission of co-financed investment projects (as of 2016)

- ★ *A robust methodology for the co-financing framework is currently being developed, a series of **consultations with relevant stakeholders in progress** and to be continued*
- ★ *Concerns projects for **co-financing** only*
- ★ *COM requirements have to be met for projects to be eligible for IPA co-financing*
- ★ *Consultations on-going and will continue in the next semester*



Schematic chain of events project identification → signature of Grant

- ★ *Single Project Pipeline in place → (currently developed @ national level with TA support)*
- ★ *NIC official submission of projects proposed for co-financing → (need decision on template/ structured consultations)*
- ★ *Grant Application Form preparation and submission by the beneficiary → (FOCUS OF THIS PRESENTATION)*
- ★ *WBIF assessment procedure → (individual actors/ internal procedures)*
- ★ *WBIF SC review →*
- ★ *Signature of co-delegation agreement and second level contribution arrangements → (ongoing discussions legal/ architecture/ reporting)*
- ★ *GAF annexed to the contribution arrangements →*
- ★ *Becomes the "description of the action" and is enriched/ further elaborate*



The role of the Grant Application Form = backbone of the action/ individual contribution agreement

- ★ Existing PGAF currently used for TA are not suitable for co-financed projects
- ★ The new GAF will be based on the DEVCO template and will be **adapted to the WBIF needs**
- ★ This template takes into consideration the EUBEC recommendations on the adequate project selection/ consultation procedures
- ★ The idea is that the **GAF** serves the purposes of the **description of the action**
- ★ Is an evolving document that is first created by the beneficiary for submission (**focus on action not implementation modalities**)
- ★ And – once approved- is further developed to a full- fledged action that will be annexed to the co-delegation agreement (**focus on implementation details, indicators, timelines, number of contracts etc**)



Principles to be met before a project is submitted (will be part of the GAF)

- ★ *Relevant to the **Connectivity Agenda***
- ★ *Part of the core **network/ PECI** list*
- ★ *Proof of **NIC** framework compliance (project is the result of a **prioritised SPP** & national / IFI commitments are clear)*
- ★ ***Explicit and written commitment of the national authorities** on the existence of available **fiscal space**. This commitments will be assessed in light of the SPP and of the analysis of the Economic Reform Programme.*
- ★ ***Maturity** (e.g. proof of relevant studies (EISA- Environmental and social impact assessments, etc) and permits are in place)*

Next Steps

- ★ *Numerous issues remain to be addressed and decided upon*
- ★ *The final **form of the GAF**, the level of detail, the ownership of the document in each step (from submission → to further elaboration → to annexing the GAF as the main description of action document)*
- ★ *The **frequency of project submission** / year*
- ★ *Issues are taken up collectively as well as bilaterally with all relevant stakeholders (above all IFIs, beneficiaries)*
- ★ *Consultations to continue in the coming months*
- ★ *A proposed GAF will be shared before the Steering Committee meeting*