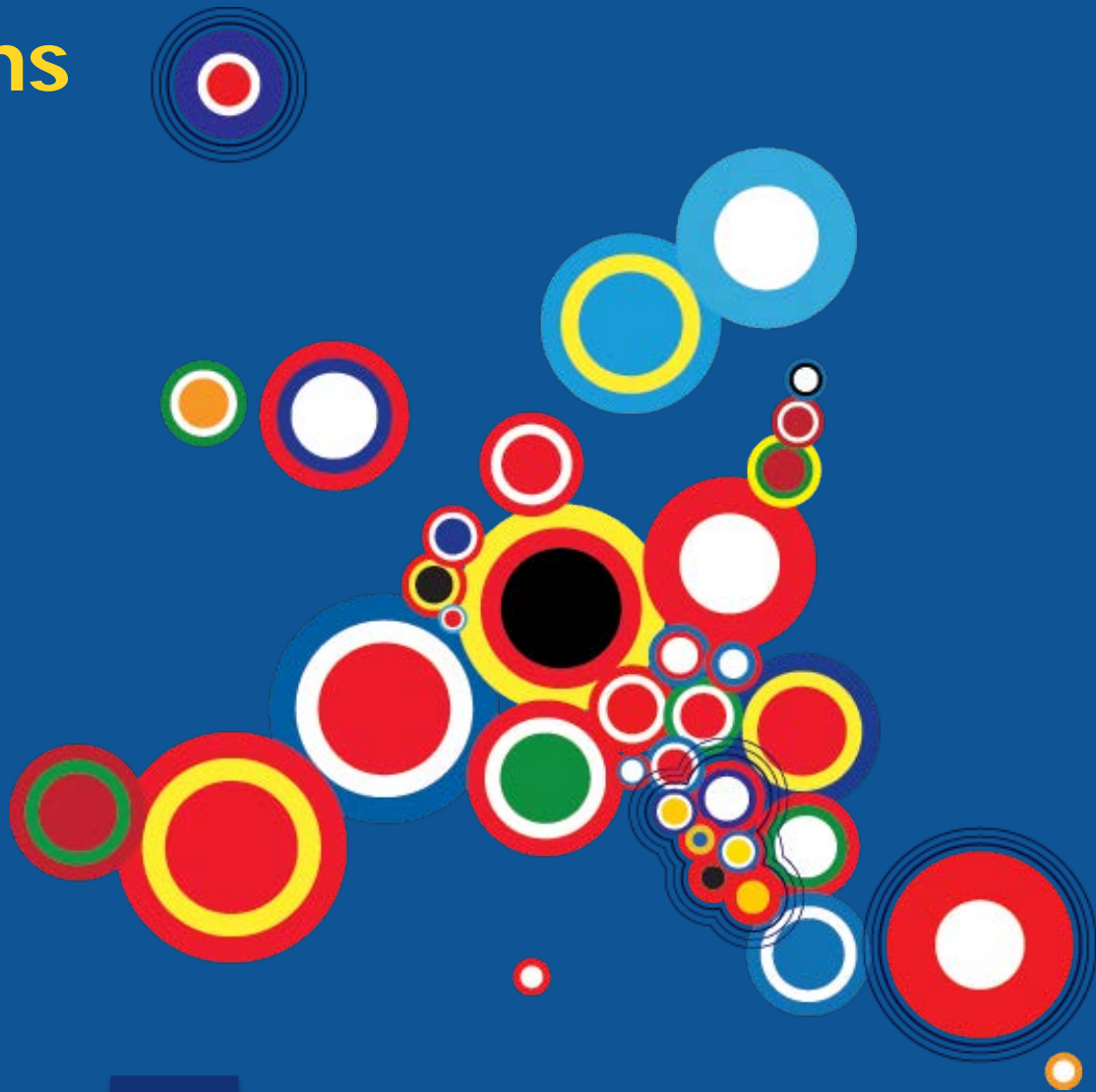




Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF)

1st Call IG Co-fin
GAF Feedback





Background

- *First Round for IG Co-fin launched at 13th WBIF SC meeting in Paris;*
- *GAF submission deadline 31 March 2016;*
 - Two seminars (BEO and BRU in Feb 2016)
 - IFICO assistance
- *10 GAFs received for euro **346.9** million;*
- *Screening and Assessment ongoing;*
- *Challenges and needs identified*
- *Suggestions for addressing them →*
- ***Objective for future rounds** → improved quality of GAFs & more clarity for applicants*

Challenges and Needs I

Institutional weakness

Objective: facilitate work of applicants and achieve better quality applications that meet financiers requirements



Solution: Institutional Strengthening

- Continued capacity building;
- Training on all stages of preparation of INV project;
- On the job assistance

Challenges and Needs II

Need enhanced cooperation in pre-selection phase

Objective: avoid wasting efforts preparing applications with eligibility deficiencies (eligibility, maturity, fiscal space)



Solution: close & permanent cooperation of decision makers / elaboration in NIC (early involvement / working groups with IFIs, EUD, etc.)

Challenges and Needs III

Need for review and completion of GAF + Guidelines



- Unitary approach for grant calculation → introduction of table formats with formulas for budget & grant amounts
- Eligibility of costs related to TA → list eligible TA costs
- Percentage of grant relating to communication & visibility, audit & evaluation contingencies → explicit method for calculating
- Non eligible costs → list of non-eligible costs
- GAF evaluation criteria and grid → used by evaluators and applicants/ transparency

Further GAF assistance

- *GAF working group*
- *IFICO assistance*
- *Presentation of progress at the 14th WBIF SC in Oslo*

Next round

- *Next call for INV grant applications in September 2016 through written procedure*
- *Improved GAF to be used for this round*



Thank You!