



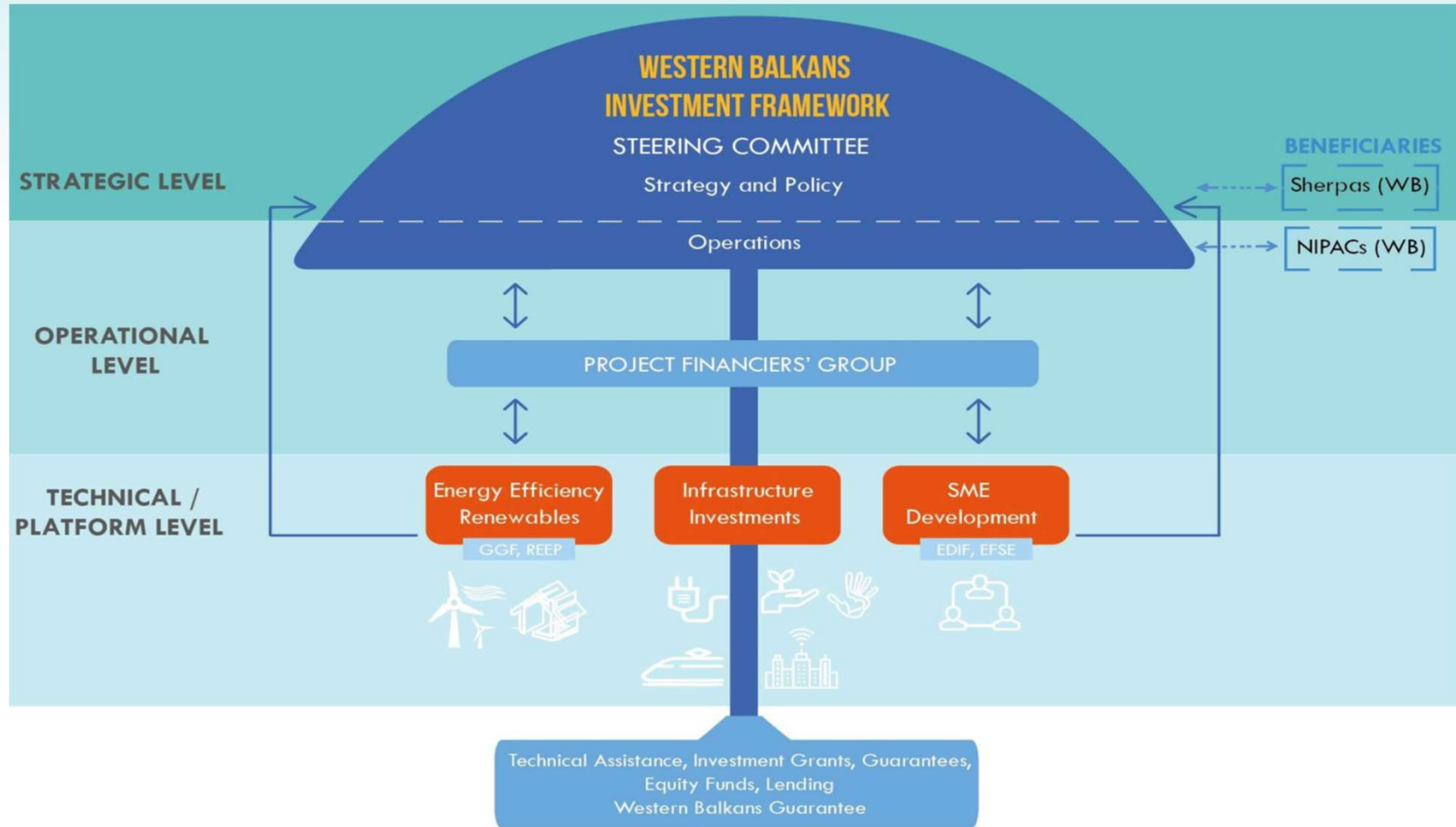
European
Commission

WBIF 2.0
PFG, Tirana 23 May, 2019



*Enlargement
Negotiations*

The WBIF Expansion



Background

- Starting point for WBIF `s expansion: COM`s new strategy for the Western Balkans published in February 2017
- WBIF subsequently carried out a Self-assessment
- In addition, an IPF evaluation and COM Internal Audit took place
- At the 19th WBIF SC meeting in Luxembourg, December 2018, further work on WBIF 2.0 was agreed
- Status and feedback from the PFG should be presented at the 20th WBIF SC in Berlin.

WBIF 2.0

Overall recommendations from the Commission

- **Strategic level:**

- Future EU policy will drive investment decisions
- Strategic policy discussions at the December WBIF SC, where “Sherpas” from the beneficiaries will be invited

- **Instrument level:**

- Streamlining of governance structures
- Integrating EDIF under WBIF;
- Other instruments (GGF, REEP, EFSE) will be closer aligned with WBIF

Action Plan State of Play

- In April, the WBIF 2.0 note from the COM to the WBIF stakeholders was disseminated
- In April and May rounds of stakeholder consultations took place
- 07 May, the EDIF meeting took place in Sarajevo, where this concept was discussed
- Now – 27th PFG, further discussion and elaboration of WBIF 2.0
- First feedback and state of play from the PFG to the SC in Berlin in June

Feedback from the stakeholder consultation

- In general WBIF stakeholders welcome the new strategic orientation but questions remain on how it will work in practice
- Mixed feedback to the idea of including the “sherpas” in the autumn Steering Committee meeting
 - could lead to more formal meetings and less discussion
 - what is the added value
- For the Steering Committee meeting - Agenda setting will be important

Feedback from the stakeholder consultation

- Important that WBIF does not lose efficiency when expanding
- Questions were raised regarding additional changes that would have to be introduced in the WBIF under IPA III
- While most stakeholders see the closer integration of EDIF under the WBIF umbrella as a positive development, details on how this work still remains to be addressed

Feedback from the stakeholder consultation

- With all the element the WBIF stakeholders have at hand, we should take the time to review all aspect and not rush the process
- An extended timeline for implementing the changes should be developed
- Further discussions and work in a working group is encouraged.

COM's response to the Feedback received from the stakeholder consultation

- WBIF 2.0 will lay the foundation for the next MFF 2020-2027 (WBIF 3.0)
- We will have time for feedback
- 3 work streams for the working group/s are suggested
 - Policy
 - Operational
 - Legal

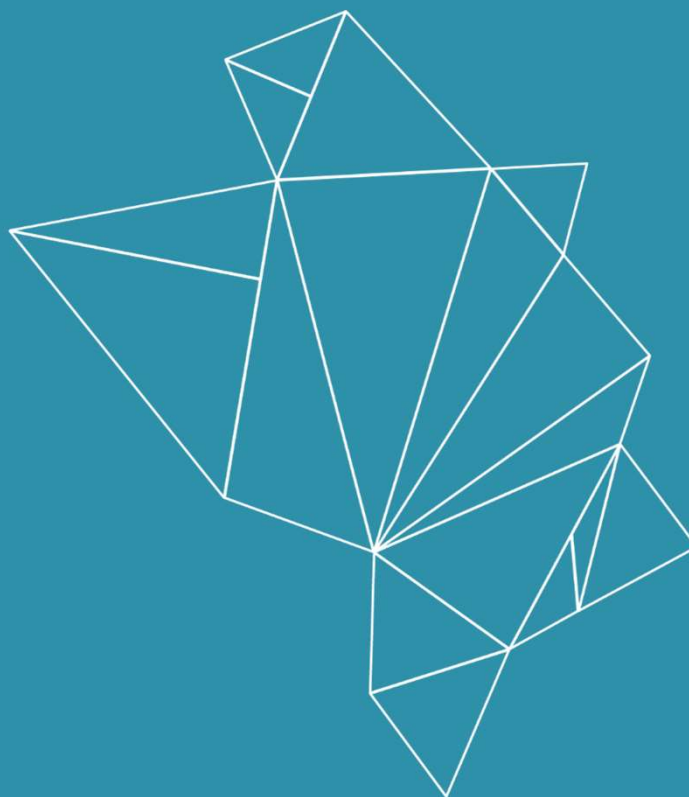
Action Plan – further work

- 04-05 July, Poznan WB6 summit, possibly meeting Ministers of Economy, where the concept will be presented
- Over summer/autumn: further work through working group/s
- November PFG in Brussels, discussion of recommendations for 21st WBIF SC in December
- 21st WBIF SC meeting in Brussels, adoption of additional recommendations

Recommendations for the Steering Committee in Berlin 25 June 2019

- Outcome of the discussion today to be reflected in the Minutes of the Meeting and be the basis for the feedback and recommendations to the SC in Berlin
- From the Stakeholder consultation:
 - The overall direction
 - Further integration of EDIF in WBIF
 - However, further work and time is needed through working group/s:
 - Policy related aspects
 - Operational aspects
 - Legal aspects

Thank you
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ATTENTION



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