

Key Information regarding the Call for Proposals launched by the Facility Investing for Employment (IFE) Launching Date: 01.06.2023

IFE will launch Calls for Proposals in Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda, Senegal, and Tunisia with a submission deadline for Concept Notes on 30.06.2023. The table below summarizes the key information, milestones and time frames with respect to this Call for Proposals.

Specific conditions for applications are outlined in the **Guidelines for Applicants**. Please study this document thoroughly to check whether your entity and project fulfils these conditions. Please submit an application only in case your intended project is mature enough to fulfil all requirements spelt out in the guidelines for applicants and in the online grant application system. Otherwise consider a submission at the next submission opportunity. An official announcement will be made once the next submission date has been determined.

To be able to submit an application, applicants have to register on the online system SmartME: <https://smartme.adalia.fi/login/IFE>

Overview Info	Notes / Guidance	Dates / Timelines
Call ID Number	IFE-13-C3 During the applicant process, each applicant will be assigned a unique applicant number beginning with this Call ID number.	n/a
Applicable for these countries	Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda, Senegal and Tunisia	n/a
Sector	The Call for Proposal is open to all sectors	n/a
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English for Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana and Rwanda French for Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and Tunisia Submissions in other languages will not be considered for evaluation.	n/a
Call for Proposals Launch Date	From this date, you can log into SmartME, fill out and submit the application	01.06.2023
Webinars	Questions & Answer sessions about IFE and on the Call for Proposal will be organized, which can be attended by interested applicants free of charge	ENGLISH language webinars on 6, 13 and 20 June 2023 at 11:00 CEST / 12:00 in Ethiopia and Egypt;

Overview Info	Notes / Guidance	Dates / Timelines
		11:00 in Rwanda; 09:00 in Ghana WEBINAR LINK: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83012823899 FRENCH language webinars on 8, 15 and 22 June 2023 at 12:00 CEST / 11:00 in Tunisia; 10:00 in Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal WEBINAR LINK: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81251040505
Deadline for Submission of Questions	Questions submitted after this date will not be answered	23.06.2023
Concept Note submission deadline	This is the cut-off date for submission of proposals. IFE will not consider late submissions.	30.06.2023
Concept Note Evaluation process	Information provided in the Concept Note will be verified, including potentially through site visits. This evaluation process establishes a shortlist to invite for a Full Project Proposal.	Approximately 10 weeks
Full Project Proposal Formulation Period	The shortlisted candidates will be invited to develop and submit an in-depth Full Project Proposal via SmartME	approx.7 weeks
Full Project Proposal Evaluation process	Assessment of Full Project Proposals through an in-depth Due Diligence process on the applications. The timeframe depends on project complexity, time required for site visits, etc.	depending among other aspects on the clarity and accuracy of the Proposal
Contracting Period	Finalisation of a Grant Agreement including all required supplements such as the disbursement plan and project's implementation plan	Approximately 4-6 weeks

Key conditions and principles at a glance

Aspect	Brief Description	relevant chapter in the Guidelines for Applicants
Project categories and max. IFE co-financing share	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not-for-profit projects with job creation impact (no revenue generation by the lead applicant's entities or by the consortium members): Up to 90% of the total investment cost of the project 2. Not-for-profit projects with job creation impact (with revenue generation by the lead applicant's entities or by the consortium members): Up to 75% of the total investment cost of the project 3. For-profit projects with broader job creation impact": Up to 35% of the total investment cost of the project 4. For-profit projects with job creation impact: Up to 25% of the total investment cost of the project. <p>Please note: For non-for-profit projects (Cat. 1 and 2) it must be proved that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the project's paramount objective is for common benefit • all assets co-financed by the IFE will belong irrevocable to a non-profit entity • potential revenues / profits generated by the project will be re-invested and not be distributed to and public or private entities or persons 	Chapter 2
Key Performance Indicators (KPI)	<p>IFE targets the following KPI:</p> <p>KPI 1: Number of new jobs created either at the applicant's entity/ies and/or at 3rd party entities</p> <p>KPI 2: Number of improved working conditions / income for existing employees</p> <p>KPI 3: Number of employees benefitting from vocational/further qualification measures</p> <p>Please note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobs at 3rd party entities can only be counted in case these are created as a direct result of the investment and must be supported by letters of intent signed by the 3rd party entities • Jobs created thanks to improved general socio-economic framework conditions cannot be counted, even if these improvements are an indirect effect of the project 	Annex 1

Aspect	Brief Description	relevant chapter in the Guidelines for Applicants
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training centers that only offer skills training but do not show a demonstrated link to direct new job creation, are not eligible • Applicants have the obligation to monitor and to prove the jobs created following the completion of the investment phase and start of the operation phase during 3 years! 	
Eligible applicants	Public entities, private companies, non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations etc.	Chapter 2
Requirement for applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 3 years of relevant experiences (except recently registered entities in the country of call, which are an investee of an individual applicant or any of the consortium members) and sound financial standing. • Compliance with international standards regarding environmental and social aspects, procurement rules etc. • Compliance with specific IFE related conditions, such as regular reporting, monitoring of job creation etc. 	Chapter 3
General Project requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job creation potential at least 125 new jobs per 1 million EUR grant • All jobs must be new and good jobs at the private sector • Project must prove additionality • Project must not cause market distortion 	Chapter 4
Additionality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must prove that the potential IFE grant is absolutely necessary for the implementation of the project and that all other alternative financing options (loans or equity) have been explored (in particular important for projects in Cat. 3 and 4) 	Annex 5
Grant size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between min. 1 Mill EUR and max. 10 Mill. EUR 	Chapter 5.1
Own contribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always required • Cash and in-kind contributions eligible • Min. cash 15% of total own contribution required 	Chapter 5.2
Eligible expenditures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only costs occurring during investment phase • No recurrent costs 	Chapter 5.3
Selection procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for Proposals 	Chapter 6
Project development stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects must be at a mature stage of development, to be demonstrated by presentation of (pre-)feasibility and marketing 	Chapter 6.2

Aspect	Brief Description	relevant chapter in the Guidelines for Applicants
	studies, cost quotations, (pre-)agreements regarding funding plan etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects at an idea stage will not be accepted. • Projects, which are already in implementation, are not eligible • Projects need to be operationally and financially sustainable 	

Need more information?

IFE will host webinars explaining the terms and conditions for applying. The webinar dates are indicated in the table above.

Please consult our FAQ section covering questions and answers from previous Calls for Proposals here: <https://invest-for-jobs.com/en/ife-faq>

In addition, a helpdesk will be established (in May 2023) that offers potential applicants support in questions related to the application requirements and process. This helpdesk is only available for projects in the following countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda and Senegal. The helpdesk can be contacted via Email under the following address: helpdesk-ife@invest-for-jobs.com

General questions can be submitted during the submission period only in writing and only to the following email address: cfp-ife.june2023@invest-for-jobs.com.

Questions submitted via another means of communication or channels are not receivable.

Questions and their respective answers will be published on a specific website during the submission period (website will be announced and available at the launching date).