

The Facility « Investing for Employment » (IFE)

Economic reforms and improved competitiveness have brought forth new, dynamic growth markets in many parts of Africa. African countries increasingly offer attractive prospects for companies and investors: a young population, growing availability of workers and skilled labour, rising purchasing power, new markets and integration in global value chains. The facility « Investing for Employment » (IFE) is an investment facility created by KfW Development Bank (KfW) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) as an integral part of the Special Initiative on Training and Job Creation to help meet this growing need for new long-term jobs on the continent.

Invest for Jobs: The Special Initiative on Training and Job Creation

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) established under the brand Invest for Jobs the Special Initiative on Training and Job Creation to create good jobs and apprenticeships and to improve working conditions in the partner countries. There are currently programs in seven partner countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal, and Tunisia. A partnership with Egypt is in preparation.

The purpose of the facility IFE is to support the creation of decent employment opportunities in Africa (jobs as defined in the Guidelines for Applicants). It does so by offering co-financing grants for new investment projects with a high job creation impact. The selection of projects is based on a competitive application process. IFE looks for an optimal allocation of available funding to projects with the highest plausibility of success and expected return in terms of the number and quality of new jobs created.

The four categories of eligible projects:

Category	Category 1	Category 2
	Public Infrastructure for job creation	Common service for job creation
Lead Applicant profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Industry Associations - Organisations managing Industrial Zones - NGOs - National Ministries and National agencies involved in the development of the private sector - Investment agencies - Employment agencies - Infrastructure service providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National and International Chambers of Commerce - Industry Associations - NGOs - Investment agencies - Employment agencies
Project examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction of an access road for an industrial cluster - Energy efficiency measures - Renewable energy investments - Waste treatment facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equipment for organizations promoting investments and job creation in a new high-skills sectors - or - - Training equipment for an academy providing vocational training to trainees to be employed by various enterprises in a new high-skills industrial area
IFE Grant	Up to 90% of the total project cost.	Up to 75% of the total project cost.
Applicant's contribution	At least 10% of the total project costs	At least 25% of the total project costs

Category	Category 3	Category 4
	Projects that foster direct job creation which have benefits/impacts more broadly than solely for the project owners	Projects that foster direct job creation by project owners
Lead Applicant profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Companies - Industry Associations - Organisations managing Industrial Zones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Companies
Project examples	Construction of a cooling solution offering its services to a wider range of marketplace participants, strengthening the agricultural value chain	Expansion of a manufacturing enterprise by introducing a new business line in addition to the existing core business
IFE Grant	Up to 50% of the total project cost	Up to 25% of the total project cost
Applicant's contribution	At least 50% of the total project costs	At least 75% of the total project costs

Applicant eligibility:

Individual Applicant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The applicant must be a separate legal entity registered in Tunisia. The exact type of legal form must be clearly disclosed in the application form. - The applicant must be registered and operating under all licenses required for a given line of business in Tunisia.

If applying as a consortium	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least one applicant must be registered and operating under all licenses required for a given line of business in Tunisia. 	
Lead Applicant	Partner applicant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A consortium must name one Lead Applicant - The Lead Applicant must be an organisation legally registered in Tunisia, any country in the EU/EFTA or in Africa. - The lead applicant must be a distinctive legal entity. The exact type of legal form must be clearly disclosed in the application form. - Organizations without own legal status are not eligible to be lead applicants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partner applicants must be registered in Tunisia, any country in the EU/EFTA or in Africa.

What can the IFE Grant be used for?

IFE grants can mainly be used for construction or fixed assets (machinery or equipment), with limited support to other activities. Furthermore, applicants must demonstrate that their proposed project can be initiated, e.g. start of construction, at the very latest 12 months after signing the IFE Grant Agreement. IFE reserves the right to cancel a committed financing contribution if this condition is not fulfilled.

IFE Grant Amount

IFE grants range from 1 million EUR to 10 million EUR. As stated in boxes 1 - 4 above, the Applicant is obliged to contribute own funds to complete the project finance.

Application and selection process:

IFE selects projects through a competitive, objective and transparent two-stage application process, with submission of Project Concept Notes as the first step. Project Concept Notes will be scored and the most promising will be shortlisted based on both qualitative evaluation criteria and key performance indicators (KPIs), related to the number of decent jobs created. Only shortlisted Applicants will be asked to develop a detailed Full Project Proposal. Shortlisted Applicants are eligible to receive free technical support to develop their Full Project Proposal.

Submission is online ONLY through the platform SmartME. Please consult <https://invest-for-jobs.com/en/ife-call-for-proposals-tunisia>

Timeline:

The Call for Concept Notes for **Tunisia** will open on **November 30th, 2020 at 5:00pm (CET)** and Project Concept Notes must be submitted before **January 22nd, 2021 at 5:00pm (CET)**.

Further information:

For more details about applicants' own contribution and eligible costs, visit www.invest-for-jobs.com/en/investing-for-employment and download the Application Guide for further instructions. For specific questions please e-mail to cfp-ife.tunisie@invest-for-jobs.com. Only questions submitted in writing 7 days prior to the closure of the Call for Concept Notes (until **January 15th, 2021 at 5:00pm (CET)**) to the aforementioned e-mail address will be answered. All questions and answers will be made public on <https://invest-for-jobs.com/en/ife-call-for-proposals-tunisia>