

IFE-15-Social-Protection-C5: Call for Proposals January 2025 in Ghana, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal

Answers to Applicants' Questions - Concept Note (Stage 1)

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| No. | Section | Questions in English | Answers in English |
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| | Categorisation / Catégorisation | | |
| 1 | Categorisation | Can the project be divided into non-profit and profit-oriented? | A project can be categorized only under 1 category. |
| | Eligibility / Éligibilité | | |
| 2 | Eligibility | What are the requirements regarding how many years the company has to be in operation? Would 1 year or less be eligible? | No, All applicants (Individual or Lead Applicant and Consortium members) must have been operating for a minimum of 3 years. Exception: In case of a recently registered entity in the country of call, which is an investee of an individual applicant or any of the consortium members (e.g. subsidiary, joint venture, Special Purpose Vehicle-SPV), then the respective shareholders of this entity must have been operating for a minimum of 3 years at the time of CN submission |
| 3 | Eligibility | Must we demonstrate that we have sought investment previously, or can we demonstrate that we have identified an opportunity to collaborate (having partnered previously), and that IFE is our primary target for funding support? | All applicants must demonstrate that all potential financing venues to be able to close 100% of the funding gap have been explored but without success and are unavaible due to reasons beyond their control. Please visit section 6.2 in the Guidelines for Applicants - Additionality, for further information. |
| 4 | Eligibility | Does the fund includes salaries of those created jobs? The employees? | No, Salaries and other operating expense are considered ineligible costs and cannot be included as part of the investment budget. Please visit section 6.4.3 in the Guidelines for Applicants for the exhaustive list of acceptable expenditures. |

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| 5 | Eligibility | Does the ticket size a company applies for has any relation with the revenues the company generates? | <p>Yes. For private applicants: Requested grant size cannot exceed 200% of the average turnover of the applicant in the past 3 years.</p> <p>For public applicants, Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisations: Requested grant size cannot exceed 400% of the applicant's average budget in the past 3 years.</p> <p>Please visit section 1.1 in the Guidelines for Applicants for the full requirements for Applicant Eligibility details.</p> |
| 6 | Eligibility | Can an applicant be a start up? Or an entity registered say 3 years ago that is yet to start operation? | No, all applicants must be registered and prove that they have been operational for at least 3 years. |
| 7 | Eligibility | What are the amount in EUR of grant components which are available for social protection measures? | <p>The maximum total grant for the social protection component cannot exceed 70% of the grant for the job creation component, accepted by IFE.</p> <p>Costs for social protection measures can be co-financed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o up to 30% for insurance products / pension schemes etc., which are co-financed by the applicant(s) and the final beneficiaries (i.e. employees or other persons with business relationship to the applicant, but not formally employed); IFE cofinancing must equally benefit employer and beneficiary. o up to 50% for insurance products / pension schemes etc. financed by the applicant(s) only; o up to 75% of the investment costs of any one-off social protection measure with a focus on capital expenditure. Minimum co-financing amount is 50.000 EUR. |
| 8 | Eligibility | How precise must the business plan and the presentation of the effects on job creation be for submission of the project proposal by April 15? Does it have to be detailed in the business plan by April 15, including the costs for social security, etc.? | <p>Business plan, along with other supporting documents are considered part of the project maturity.</p> <p>IFE expect the projects applying for the grant to be at an advanced planning stage in order to be considered for IFE funding (demonstrated by presentation of feasibility studies, market studies, detailed cash flows, detailed funding plans/agreements etc.)</p> |
| 9 | Eligibility | If a project is selected after the first round, how likely are you to receive funding after the second round? | <p>Each project is assessed on its own merits. The likelihood of being awarded the IFE grant is highly dependable on (1) satisfying all IFE criteria. (2) Obtaining high scoring as a result of the project assessment - Please see section 4 for further information on evaluation criteria and the ranking procedure of eligible applications.</p> <p>Preference will be given for projects that successfully combine Job Creation and Social Protection components.</p> |

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| 10 | Eligibility | What kind of Cash Contribution can an applicant provide? Can it be a subsidized loan or another grant? | <p>Cash Contribution:</p> <p>1- Can stem from own funds, loans, and/or other types of financial support, such as equity contributions or grants from third parties.</p> <p>2- Must be at least 15% of total Own Contribution</p> <p>3- Own cash contribution must be exclusively used for eligible expenditures</p> |
| 11 | Eligibility | What proof do you need to start the project only with IFE funding? | IFE will not fully finance any project. The Facility provides co-financing for up to EUR 10.000.000 depending on the project category and a maximum of 90% of the total project cost depending on the category the project would be classified under. Please visit section 2.2 in the Guidelines for Applicants for more details on categorisation |
| 12 | Eligibility | Any specific sectors you are targeting/accepted? | <p>The ongoing Call for Proposals with emphasis on social protection measures is not sector specific. Public and private entities from all sectors are welcome to apply as long as the proposed projects aim to create jobs in the private sector.</p> <p>Please note that projects that contribute to the Just transition (Green projects, ICT, promotion of environmentally and socially sustainable supply chain, etc) and feminist development policy (Promotion of women employment, improvement of working conditions, etc.), might be eligible for bonus points during the assessment of their concept note.</p> |
| General / Générale | | | |
| 13 | General | Will we cover reporting guidelines? Can the lead applicant be supported by a parent entity in Europe? | <p>All applicants are responsible for reporting on the project progress, once the grant agreement is signed until the fulfillment of the agreed upon KPIs.</p> <p>Yes, a lead applicant in the country of the Call for Proposal can enter into a consortium with a company residing in Africa, EU/EFTA region as long as the consortium partner(s) have a role in the project.</p> |
| 14 | General | What is the timeline to re-imburse the financing of the grant? | <p>For the Job Creation component: IFE commitment towards the specific investment items agreed upon at the time of the grant award is not on a reimbursment basis. the grant tranches are disbursed prior to procuring the investment item and upon fulfilling the conditions precedent to each disbursement.</p> <p>For the Social Protection component: The IFE grant will be paid on a reimbursment basis upon completion of the acceptable Social Protection measure.</p> |

| KPI / ICP | | | |
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| 15 | KPI | We do not have to meet each KPI? | For the Job Creation component: all applicants must comply with KPI 1 (Job Creation) conditions at least. KPI 2 and 3 are dependant on the project specifics, and are not compulsory. |
| SmartME | | | |
| 16 | SmartME | Is the outline for the concept note available to review before registering with SmartME platform? | There is no offline template for the Concept note submission, you can register on SmartME and build your application during the submission timeline. |

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