



Submission, evaluation and preparation of grant agreements

*National Info-day CEF Blending Call
Helsinki 8 May 2017*

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Content

- Submission of Applications
- Evaluation of Proposals
- Grant Preparation
- Indicative Timeline

- ***Submission of Applications***
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Submission of applications

Cut-off dates: **14 July 2017 at 17:00:00**
30 November 2017 at 17:00:00

Mandatory electronic submission only using the *TENtec* eSubmission module

All application forms and access to TENtec eSubmission module available via call page on INEA website

Submission of applications

Application Forms

Part A

Main characteristics of the proposal

Part B

Administrative information

NEW

PART E

&

Letter of Support

Part C

Information on compliance with EU law

Part D

Technical and financial information

Submission of applications

Application forms

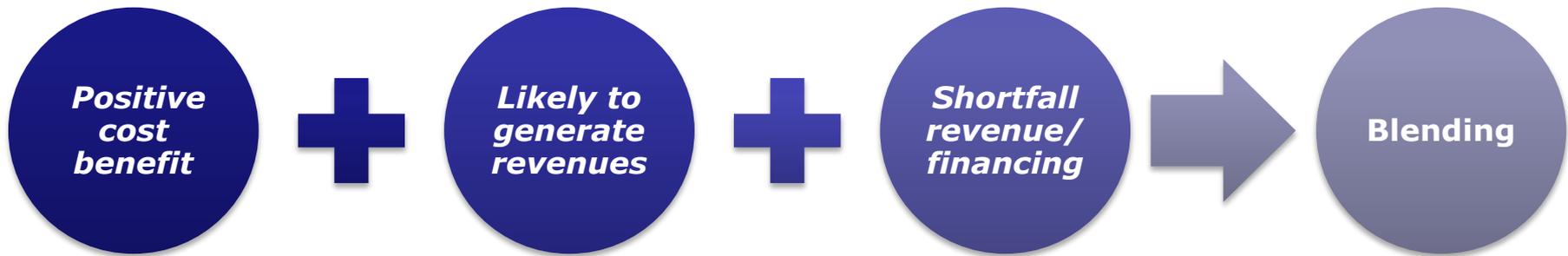
- ***To be encoded in TEN-Tec***
 - **Part A**
- ***To be uploaded as separate files***
 - **Parts B, C, D and E**
 - **Letter of Support**
 - **Annexes**
 - **Supporting documents (e.g. standalone CBA or CEA)**
 - **Documents requiring signature by applicants or Member States**

Submission of applications

Reference documents

- *Work Programme*
- *Call texts*
- *Form Templates*
- *Guide for applicants*
- *Frequently Asked Questions*
- *Proposal Checklist*

Which projects are good candidates for the Blending call?



Submission of applications

Tips to increase your chances

Start preparing your proposal as early as possible.

Inform Member States authorities timely.

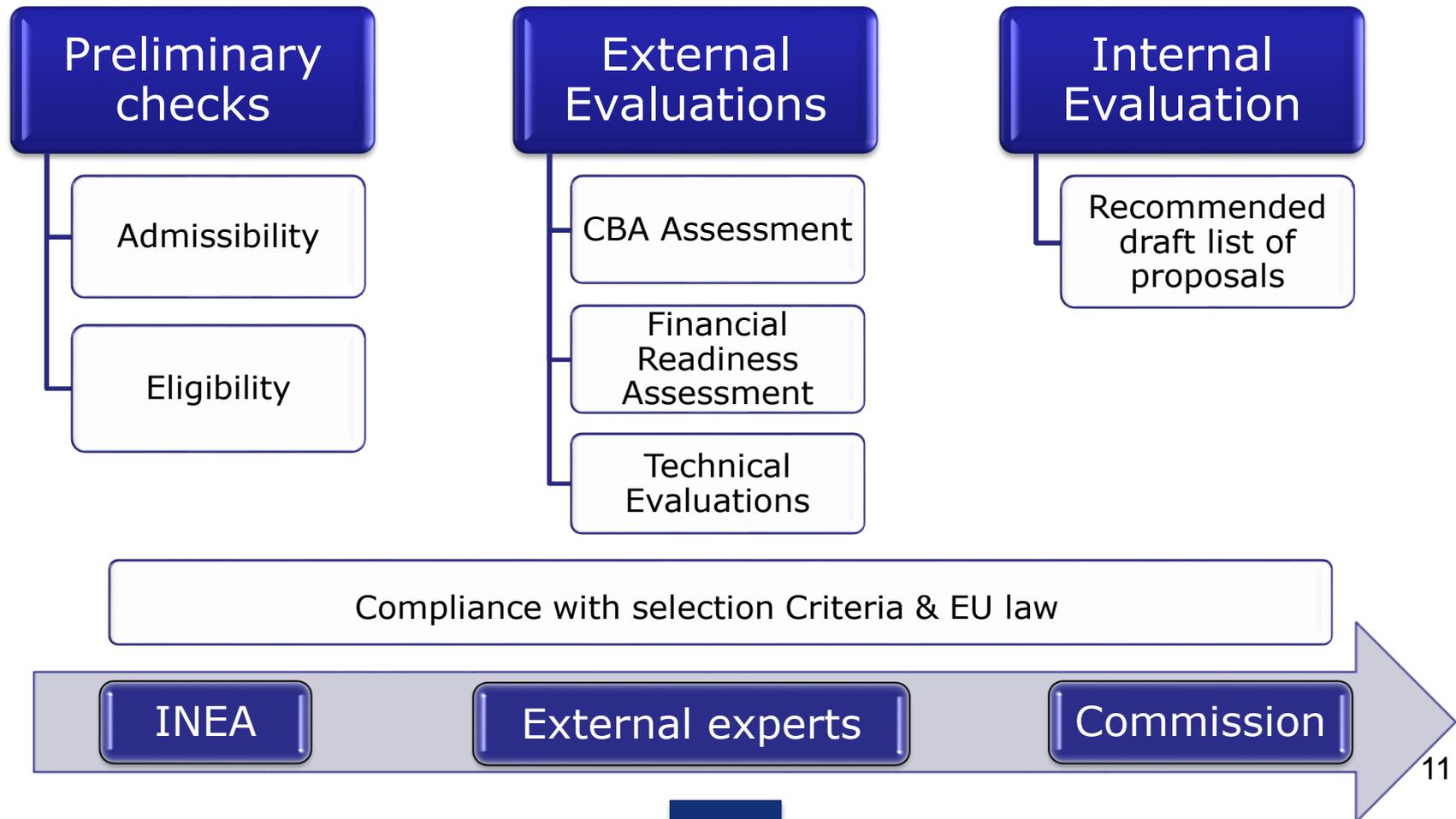
Contact your financial advisor/institution in advance.

Refer to the proposal checklist.

- Submission of Applications
- ***Evaluation of Proposals***
- Grant Preparation
- Indicative Timeline

Evaluation of Proposals

Evaluation Steps



SIGN UP AS AN EXPERT!

europa.eu/!DT67yB

For Financial readiness assessment



Evaluation of Proposals

Technical Evaluation Criteria

Relevance

Maturity*

Impact**

Quality

* Additional input from Financial Readiness Evaluation

** Additional input from CBA Assessment

Evaluation of Proposals

Final Selection

Preparation of Selection Decision

EC Inter-Service Consultation

Consultation of CEF Coordination Committee
Information of the European Parliament

Adoption of Commission Selection Decision

Information to Applicants and Launch of
Grant Preparation

- Submission of Applications
- Evaluation of Proposals
- ***Grant Preparation***
- Indicative Timeline

Grant Preparation

- Signature is not dependent upon financial close
- Grant disbursement is dependent upon financial close
- 12 months after the signature of grant agreement...
 - ***If financial close – grant disbursement***
 - ***If no financial close – termination of the contract***

- Submission of Applications
- Evaluation of Proposals
- Grant Preparation
- ***Indicative Timeline***

Indicative timeline of the selection process (1)

Call publication	8 February 2017
1st Cut-off date for submission	14 July 2017 (17:00:00 Brussels time)
Evaluation of proposals	July – November 2017
Consultation of CEF Coordination Committee Information of European Parliament	December 2017
Adoption of Selection Decision	January 2018
Information to applicants	January 2018
Time To Grant	April 2018

**The entire available budget may be allocated to proposals submitted within the first cut-off date*



Preparation of the cost-benefit analysis

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Agenda

- The role of CBA in the CEF Transport calls
- Blending call specificities
- Recommendations



The role of CBA in the CEF Transport Calls

How is it used?



- Additional evidence of socio-economic performance (impact criterion) – [Economic analysis](#)



- To identify cases of potential overfunding – [Financial analysis](#)

CBA: What does it mean in practice?



- A CBA is required for all proposals (with sectorial exceptions for pure compliance driven projects – e.g. pure ERTMS, pure SESAR)



- Specific CBA assessment introduced in overall project proposal evaluations since the CEF 2015 call



- Specific CBA assessment by dedicated external CBA experts separately from the rest of the external evaluation

CBA: How is it used?

Complementary input for the evaluation of the "Impact" criterion

- CBA experts prepare a separate CBA Assessment Report
- Findings of CBA Assessment Report taken into consideration by the external experts for the evaluation and scoring of the "Impact" criterion



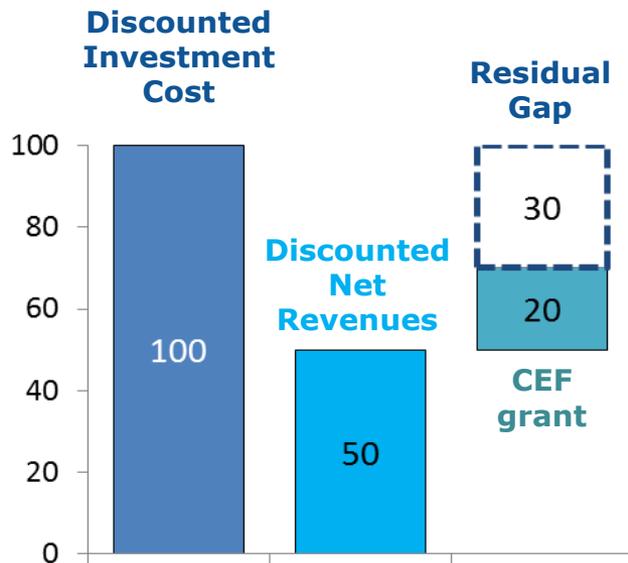
CEF Blending Call specificities

Application of the funding gap

Different modulation than in classic calls

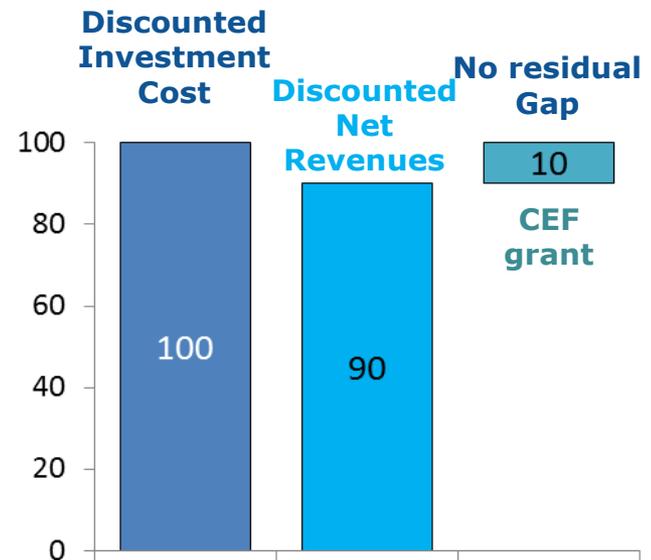
- The funding gap is the part of the (discounted) investment costs that are not covered by the (discounted) net revenues generated by the project
- In the context of this call the "modulated EU co-funding amount" is the lowest of the following values: "**funding gap amount**" or "**maximum co funding amount**".

Modulation in practice



Funding gap = 50 (50% of EC)
Max Co-funding amount 20 (20% of EC)

SMALLEST



Funding gap = 10 (10% of EC)
Max Co-funding amount 20 (20% of EC)

SMALLEST

Sensitivity analysis



- Projects shall demonstrate that their economic case is robust to downside scenarios



- To do so the performance indicators of the **economic analysis** shall be recalculated on the basis of the following scenarios:



- Increases of 25% on construction costs
- Delays to project completion of 6, 12 and 24 months
- Increases of 25% on annual operating costs over the reference period

Public-Private Partnerships

Financial analysis

- A **consolidated analysis** of the costs and revenues covering both the granting and operating entities of the Project should be carried out in order to calculate the overall investment profitability.

Availability payments

Affordability analysis

- For PPPs using availability payment schemes, such payment mechanisms should **not** be **considered as revenues**.
- For Projects based on availability payments the EU co-funding requested shall be justified through an "**affordability**" **analysis**.



Recommendations

Potential pitfalls...

Drawing upon lessons learned from previous calls

- CBA should be part of the project **preparation process** to improve projects (and not be treated solely as an obligation)
- The **scope** of the CBA cover the whole Project **including** also the **activities beyond the Action** for which the promoter is **seeking EU finance**
- Assumptions used for the CBA (and in particular the financial analysis) should be **consistent** with those of the **Business Plan** (Application Form part E)
- **Cost savings are to be considered as revenues:** unless transferred to users by a reduction of fares or compensated by an equal reduction in the operating subsidy, **cost savings affect the funding gap!**



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Look for INEA!

Thank you!