



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

EUROPEAN FUND FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT + Guarantee – Open Architecture Window

Call for Proposed Investment Programmes (PIPs)

Introduction to the Investment Window Papers

On 10 November 2021, the EFSD+ Strategic Board approved a set of strategic orientations, including six thematic areas for investment windows. These six thematic areas were explored and translated into the six Investment Window Papers. The Investment Window Papers are the result of the programming process, which identified these thematic priorities and elaborated the relevant sectors and instruments in each of the six thematic areas.

On 6 and 7 April 2022, the EFSD+ Operational Boards approved the Investment Window Papers. **These Investment Window Papers form the basis for the present call for proposals.** In addition to the criteria laid out in each investment window, careful consideration should be given to horizontal targets and priorities of the EFSD+ and in turn, Global Europe.

Global targets

As an instrument of external action, the EFSD+ will be a vital contribution to the horizontal targets identified in the NDICI Global Europe and IPAIII¹ regulations. These targets have been identified with the purpose to strengthen cross-cutting priorities and ensure a coordinated, holistic and structured approach. They must be considered in the formulation of PIPs:

- A spending target of at least 20% for human development;
- A spending target of 30% to step up efforts on climate change²;
- A spending target of indicatively 10% to tackle the management and governance of migration and forced displacement within the objectives of the new instrument, including actions addressing the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement when they directly target specific challenges in this area;
- At least 85% of actions should have gender equality as a principal or significant objective³;

¹ Some of the IPAIII targets are slightly different. PIPs targeting specifically IPAIII countries should look at the targets stated in the said regulation.

² In line with State of the Union Address of the President of the Commission of 2021, in addition to the Global Europe target, EUR 4 billion more will be invested in climate change related expenditure.

- The Instrument should contribute to the ambition of providing 7,5% of annual spending under the multiannual financial framework to biodiversity objectives in the year 2024 and 10% in 2026 and 2027;
- Of the funding in the new instrument, at least 93% should be reportable as Official Development Assistance;
- The EU will continue to aim at meeting its target to commit 0.7% of its collective GDP in Official Development Assistance, and 0.2% to least developed countries.

Aligning with the broad investment priorities as described in the Global Gateway Communication adopted by the Commission on 1st December 2021, 50% of EFSD+ Open Architecture will contribute to Global Gateway implementation.

Horizontal Priorities, Team Europe Initiatives and Flagships

In addition to the targets and sectors mentioned above, and the regional and national priorities described in the Investment Window Papers, other Commission and Global Europe horizontal priorities must also be considered in the formulation of PIPs. These priorities include financing towards Least Developed Countries and the countries in situations of fragility and conflict, youth, other priorities mentioned in Global Europe, and should take into consideration countries' debt sustainability. Particular attention will be paid to proposals addressing the effect of the war in Ukraine, including in EU neighbouring countries and beyond.

In line with the approach set forth under the European Financial Architecture for Development, the Global Gateway communication, as well as the conclusions of the EU-AU Summit, Indo-Pacific Summit, Eastern Partnership Summit, the EFSD+ will play a key role in delivering on the EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package, the Economic and Investment Plans for the Neighbourhood East, South and the Western Balkans as well as the Indo-Pacific strategy. Flagship initiatives within these investment plans are/should be developed using a Team Europe approach.

The formulation of PIPs should therefore be in line and contribute to delivering on these flagships as well as other Team Europe Initiatives with transformative impact. Examples with a regional focus include the Alliance for Entrepreneurship in Africa, and similar initiatives to support SMEs in the Neighbourhood, Just Energy Transition partnerships (JETs), the Team Europe Initiative on local manufacturing and access to vaccines, medicines and health technologies in Africa (MAV+), or the Southern Neighbourhood Flagship on energy efficiency, fostering the production and trade of clean energy, including hydrogen.

The PIPs' ability to contribute to the above objectives and targets will form an important element for the selection, alongside the elements set out in the individual investment window papers.

Proposals are requested by 12 July 2022 at noon Brussels time.

³ As defined by the EU Gender Action Plan III, a communication which has been welcomed by 24 Member States, and as referenced in the NDICI-Global Europe regulation, which requires the EU to mainstream gender equality throughout all its programming and to apply a rights-based approach (article 8 NDICI).