

HOUSING AND EMPOWERMENT FOR ROMA (HERO) PILOT PROJECT

n°	Question	Answer
1	What is your definition for micro-finance institution? Are non-profit organizations such as foundations also eligible? If yes – are NGOs eligible as applicant and/or as co-applicant? What type of documentation would you require as proof of (micro-finance) experience?	<p>The lead applicant is widely defined as a micro-finance institution or another financial intermediary established in Slovakia, Bulgaria or Romania that offers financing schemes targeted to disadvantaged social groups in the country concerned.</p> <p>The lead applicant should demonstrate its lending track record, also in terms of volume and number of loans, and specific experience of providing micro-loans of at least the scale comparable to the amount available under HERO (per respective country) for the purpose of mitigating risks relating to microloans (i.e. for the Risk Mitigation Mechanism). They will also have to demonstrate economic sustainability, and stable and sufficient sources of finance. Proof of micro-finance experience can include insurance and savings schemes/products. As the lead applicant will design and be responsible for the implementation of the Risk Management Mechanism (RMM), CEB expects the lead applicant to possess credit risk modelling capabilities and be able to lend directly.</p> <p>The application must be submitted by a lead applicant and at least one co-applicant and they must act together in the implementation of the action. The co-applicant may be an NGO. In the Grant Application Form (Template), in section 2 on Information on the Lead Applicant, the Co-Applicant and Affiliated Entities, the co-applicant can tick the box corresponding to NGO while there is no such option for the Lead Applicant to have the legal status of an NGO.</p>