

InvestEU Blending Facility for Microfinance

| No. | Questions | Answers |
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| 1 | Can one end-beneficiary participate to multiple activities in each year – and will the same end-beneficiary be counted only once or can be included multiple times in the count of impacted beneficiaries? | One ultimate beneficiary may participate in more than one activity. However, regardless the number of activities the ultimate beneficiary participates in, they will be counted as a single beneficiary. |
| 2 | What is the definition of eligible end-beneficiaries? Can an end-beneficiary receive the business development support under the program but not receive a loan by the end of the three years of the program? | The eligible ultimate beneficiaries can be: microentrepreneurs or aspiring micro-entrepreneurs. The focus of the facility is to provide technical support to those ultimate beneficiaries that will receive a loan, however, it is understandable that due to different subjective and objective reasons, not all ultimate beneficiaries may receive a loan. |
| 3 | Since market access is one of the elements mentioned in the CEB documentation, are activities such as facilitating company-to-company links and partnerships, including facilitating participation in business-to-business opportunities eligible under this initiative? Would travel be included as an eligible expense? | The focus of the programme should be in providing tailored, in person, mentoring and coaching to microentrepreneurs. Additional services may only be provided in some cases, as a complement to the tailored support, if the need for them is well justified. Travel costs are not eligible. |
| 4 | As per 2.3.2. statement from Guidelines for grant applicants: "The non-repayable (grant) support will be targeted at persons who qualify as ultimate beneficiaries for microfinance operations (i.e. micro-entrepreneurs) under the framework loan agreement signed or to be signed between the applicant and CEB. Examples of such (prospective) micro-entrepreneurs include migrants; ethnic minorities; female microentrepreneurs with no/limited access to finance; young entrepreneurs/....." and taking into consideration that our organisation has built a microfinance loan portfolio under REDI FUND loan facility (granted and fully used 2023) same time building a portfolio under CEB loan facility (granted 2024 underutilization), * Are clients financed and financed under both loan facilities above eligible for the grant? | The eligible ultimate beneficiaries should be those clients that are financed under the portfolio which is partially funded by the CEB-InvestEU loan. |
| 5 | Does the eligibility criteria for the funding apply to all consortium partners or only to the lead applicant? In other words, what are the eligibility criterias for the partners. | While the CEB encourages applicants to partner with other organisations for the delivery of activities, under the Blending Facility the CEB will only enter into an agreement with the applicant, hence the eligibility criteria apply only to the applicant. |