



# *SUSTAINABILITY GUARANTEE*

**Use Case Document**

**Version 1**

**Published on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022**

*The Use Case Document is an integral part of the Call launched by the EIF for selection Financial Intermediaries, under the Sustainability Portfolio Guarantee Product, as described in Annex IV (b).*

*All capitalised terms and expressions shall have the meaning attributed to them in the Call, or as may be defined in the relevant annexes hereto, as appropriate.*

The main purpose of the Sustainability Guarantee is to *support the green transition of SMEs, Small Mid-caps and natural persons*. Consequently, the eligibility criteria were designed in the spirit of the EU Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance, adapted to the specific needs of the Targeted Final Recipients. However, these requirements are complex and in many cases technically detailed.

This document (the “Use Case Document”) has been agreed between the European Commission (the “EC”) and EIF, and the contents of this document includes relevant conditions, thresholds, minimum reduction levels, benchmarks, certificates and pre-defined lists of operations. A Final Recipient and/or Final Recipient Transaction that conforms with the relevant provisions of the Use Case Document shall be deemed to meet the Product Eligibility Criteria, as described in the terms and conditions of Annex IV (b) Sustainability Portfolio Guarantee Product.

While the Use Case Document may be initially shared with Financial Intermediaries as a standalone document as presented here, EIF will seek to translate it in other more user friendly forms. EIF together with the EIB Advisory Services is in the process of creating the “EIF InvestEU Sustainability Guarantee Tool” that would help Financial Intermediaries and Final Recipients *to assess eligibility of the criteria and provide further guidance on the Sustainability Portfolio Guarantee Product.*

In this document:

“Control of Use of Funds” means: documentation evidencing the cost(s) of certain relevant expenditure such as in the form of invoices, purchase contracts, price quotation/technical offer, project implementation documents etc. or a combination thereof.

“PDF Report Technical Documentation” means a “PDF Report generated by the EIF InvestEU Sustainability Guarantee Tool” confirming the eligibility of specific measure/s under the EIF InvestEU Sustainability Guarantee

“Other Technical Documentation” means documentation other than “PDF Report Technical Documentation” used to confirm the eligibility of an investment with certain thresholds, parameters, minimum reduction levels, certifications , etc. as further specified under the relevant eligibility criteria.

“Technical Documentation” means “PDF Report Technical Documentation” or “Other Technical Documentation” as the case may be.

# Contents

Sustainability Guarantee eligibility criteria .....	3
1  Sustainable enterprise criteria .....	3
1.1  Prize and/or Public support previously received.....	3
1.2  Clean energy/climate related intellectual property right .....	4
1.3  Eco-label business .....	5
1.4  Sustainable/Green business/supply chain.....	6
1.5  Sustainable/Green Business model & impact.....	7
1.6  Environmentally certified enterprise .....	8
2  Investments for climate change mitigation .....	9
2.1  Renewable energy (RE).....	9
2.2  Green and energy efficient certified buildings-commercial.....	12
2.3  Green and energy efficient buildings – residential.....	16
2.4  Industrial energy efficiency.....	18
2.5  Zero and low emission mobility.....	21
2.6  Green ICT for climate mitigation.....	26
3  Investments for climate adaptation .....	28
3.1  Climate resilience .....	28
4  Investments related to transition to circular economy, waste prevention and recycling .....	30
4.1  Sustainable use of materials.....	30
4.2  Waste reduction, collection, recovery .....	32
4.3  Product as a service, reuse and sharing models that enable circular economy strategies .....	33
4.4  Green ICT enabling circular economy business models .....	34
5  Investments related to environmental impact and sustainable management of natural resources .....	35
5.1  Water resources .....	35
5.2  Pollution prevention and control .....	38
6  Protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems-Nature-based solutions.....	39
7  Agricultural and forestry activities .....	41
7.1  Sustainable forests and other climate mitigation investments .....	41
7.2  Sustainable and organic agricultural or aquacultural practices.....	42
8  Accessibility criteria .....	43

# Sustainability Guarantee eligibility criteria

## 1| Sustainable enterprise criteria

### 1.1| Prize and/or Public support previously received

#### Eligibility Criteria no 1.1

The Final Recipient has been awarded within the last 3 years a clean-tech or "green" prize, grant or funding from an EU/National institution/body/support scheme, from a pre-defined list, and the purpose of the Final Recipient Transaction is to maintain or further develop the activity of the Final Recipient.

#### WHO is eligible:

Target Final Recipients that:

- 1) Have been awarded clean-tech or “green” prize from EU/National institution/body/support scheme from the list displayed in Appendix I, as may be updated from time to time or have received grant or funding under the EIC Green Deal;

OR

- 2) Have projects that were judged to receive funding, but did not get it due to budget limitations (EIC Green Deal Seal of excellence<sup>1</sup>);

#### HOW is the eligibility confirmed:

The assessment of the Final Recipient Transaction eligibility is based on:

- ✓ Documents that state the award of the clean-tech or “green” prize the awarding entity,

OR

- ✓ Documents that confirm the EIC Green Deal funding received;

OR

- ✓ Documents that confirm the EIC Green Deal Seal of excellence label;

OR

- ✓ Public/official website stating the award or label in the name of the Final Recipient;

AND

- ✓ Self-declaration from the Final Recipient stating that the purpose of the Final Recipient Transaction is to maintain or further develop the activity;

#### WHEN should the assessment be made:

<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/seal-excellence\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/seal-excellence_en)

Prior to loan signature.

## 1.2| Clean energy/climate related intellectual property right

### Eligibility Criteria no 1.2

The Final Recipient has registered within the last 3 years, at least one renewable energy, clean-tech or climate-related technology or other relevant technology right related to climate and environment and the purpose of the Final Recipient Transaction is to enable, directly or indirectly, the use of this technology right.

#### WHO is eligible:

Target Final Recipients that have registered a renewable energy, clean-tech or climate-related technology or other relevant technology intellectual property right, such as patent, utility model, design right, topography of semiconductor products software copyright, etc, and the purpose of the Final Recipient Transaction is to finance any activity that leads to the internal or external exploitation of such technology right (e.g. resulting in protecting products or processes of the company, out-licensing or cross-licensing activities, starting spin-offs or joint ventures or building strategic alliances with other organizations).

The sole registration of the technology right does not make the Final Recipient Transaction automatically eligible.

#### HOW is the eligibility confirmed:

The assessment of the Final Recipient Transaction eligibility is based on:

- ✓ Document that states the clean-tech / climate-related intellectual property right, including by means of self-declaration;

OR

- ✓ Final Recipient's registered patent/right is checked by the Financial Intermediary on official websites, online patent registers and/or gazettes<sup>2</sup>;

AND

- ✓ Self-declaration from the Final Recipient stating that the Final Recipient Transaction is to enable, directly or indirectly, the use of this technology right;

#### WHEN should the assessment be made:

Prior to loan signature.

<sup>2</sup> such as <https://www.epo.org/searching-for-patents/technical/espacenet.html>

## 1.3| Eco-label business

### Eligibility Criteria no 1.3

The Final Recipient has registered, an eco-label from an EU, national or international, environmental, labelling scheme from a pre-defined list and the purpose of the Final Recipient Transaction is to maintain or further develop the activity of the Final Recipient.

<b>WHO is eligible:</b>
<p>Target Final Recipients that have registered one of these eco-labels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ EMAS: European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme;</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ EU Ecolabel;</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ EU organic products label;</li> </ul> <p>And the purpose of the Final Recipient Transaction is to maintain or further develop the related activity of the Final Recipient.</p>
<b>HOW is the eligibility confirmed:</b>
<p>The assessment of the Final Recipient Transaction eligibility is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Document that states the registration of the product or the service, as applicable, under one of the eligible eco-labels, valid at the time of assessment, including by means of self-declaration;</li> </ul> <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Self-declaration from the Final Recipient stating that the Final Recipient Transaction is to maintain or further develop the activity of the Final Recipient;</li> </ul>
<b>WHEN should the assessment be made:</b>
Prior to loan signature.

## 1.4| Sustainable/Green business/supply chain

### Eligibility Criteria no 1.4

The Final Recipient's main activity falls into one or more of the specified "green" activities, provided that Final Recipient's revenues from such green activities represent at least 90% of its turnover.

#### WHO is eligible:

Target Final Recipients demonstrating that at least 90% of their revenues in the most recent 12 month period for which financial information is available are originated from one or more activities that fall within the following:

- (A) Renewable energy as per criteria number 2.1 of this document;
- (B) Energy Efficiency as per criteria numbers 2.2 and/or 2.4 of this document;
- (C) Zero and low emission mobility as per criteria number 2.5 of this document;
- (D) Green ICT as per criteria number 2.6 of this document;
- (E) Circular Economy, Waste Prevention and Recycling as per any sub-criteria numbers 4.1 to 4.4 of this document;
- (F) Water resources and Pollution Prevention as per criteria number 5.1 and/or 5.2 of this document;
- (G) Nature based solutions as per criteria number 6.1 of this document;
- (H) Agricultural and forestry activities as per criteria 7.1 and/or 7.2 of this document;
- (I) Professional/technical services enabling any of the above (A) – (H);

#### HOW is the eligibility confirmed:

The assessment of the Final Recipient Transaction eligibility is based on:

- ✓ Financial Intermediary's verification as per its underwriting process based on the available accounting information;

OR

- ✓ Final Recipient's external accountant confirmation of the percentage of "green" activities revenues in the most recent 12 month period for which financial information is available;

#### WHEN should the assessment be made:

Prior to loan signature.

## 1.5| Sustainable/Green Business model & impact

### Eligibility Criteria no 1.5

The Final Recipient has incorporated in its business model “green” practices with externally verifiable climate and environmental positive impact.

#### WHO is eligible:

A Target Final Recipient that has incorporated in its business model “green” practices that pursue the transition to the “green/sustainable” economy, including but not limited to investments, processes and technologies with measured climate/environmental impact, within the following time-frame and thresholds:

- a) Over a period of the last 5 years, the Final Recipient has been reducing the carbon or environmental footprint of the company by proving:
  - i. Reduction in GHG emissions per unit of output/per total revenue of at least 20%;
  - OR
  - ii. Decrease in energy use (kWh) per unit of output/per total revenue of at least 20% ,
  - OR
  - iii. Decrease in the use of water per unit of output /per total revenue of at least 20% ;
  - OR
  - iv. Reduction in air (PM10/PM2.5/NOx) emissions per unit of output/per total revenue of at least 20%;
  - OR
- b) Over a period of the last 5 years, the Final Recipient has been substituting primary raw materials with min 20% secondary/recycled materials or substances, production residues or by-products.

#### HOW is the eligibility confirmed:

The assessment of the Final Recipient Transaction eligibility is based on:

For A): External technical certification on the reduction as per each of the eligibility thresholds of:

- i. GHG emissions;
- ii. energy use (kWh);
- iii. use of water;



iv. air emissions;  
per unit of output or per total revenue (including, but not limited, through EMAS environmental statement);

OR

For B): External technical certification on the substitution of primary materials above the threshold set in the eligibility criteria.

**WHEN should the assessment be made:**

Prior to loan signature.

## 1.6| Environmentally certified enterprise

### Eligibility Criteria no 1.6

The Final Recipient has been certified with an environmental certificate standard from a pre-defined list valid at the time of application for the Final Recipient Transaction.

**WHO is eligible:**

Target Final Recipients that hold an ISO 50001, ISO 50004 or EMAS certification and that is valid at the moment of the application for the Final Recipient Transaction.

**HOW is the eligibility confirmed:**

✓ Document that states the corresponding environmental certificate issued and that is valid at the time of application for the Final Recipient Transaction;

OR

✓ Certifier's website where that environmental certificate in the name of the Final Recipient is stated;

**WHEN should the assessment be made:**

Prior to loan signature.

## 2| Investments for climate change mitigation

### 2.1| Renewable energy (RE)

#### Eligibility Criteria no 2.1

Investments in RE projects, production and/or transmission of RE, RE electricity storage solutions, RE heating and/or cooling systems, manufacturing of products, components and machinery for RE.

<b>WHAT is eligible:</b>	
Investments in the purchase, storage, distribution, transmission, installation of equipment, systems, processes and/or RE components utilising renewable energy resources as described below.	
Eligible renewable energy type:	
<b>Solar energy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy generated through solar photovoltaics panels (PV)</li> <li>• Energy generated through concentrated solar power (CSP) technology</li> <li>• Heating and cooling solar thermal systems</li> </ul>	Eligible investments examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Solar panels and components;</li> <li>✓ Solar thermal heating (space and water) systems and components;</li> <li>✓ Solar thermal cooling systems and components</li> <li>✓ All ancillary components (except investments for their production), such as: AC/DC convertors, transformers, inverters, power meters, batteries, installation expenses and grid connection costs</li> <li>✓ Manufacture of electrical equipment for electricity from solar;</li> </ul>
<b>Ocean Energy</b>  Energy generated from wave or tidal conversion systems	Eligible investments examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Wave or tidal turbines or components;</li> <li>✓ All ancillary components (except investments for their production) such as AC/DC convertors, transformers, inverters, power meters, batteries, installation expenses and grid connection costs;</li> </ul>
<b>Wind energy</b>  Energy generated through wind turbines or wind energy conversion systems	Eligible investments examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Wind turbines and components;</li> <li>✓ All ancillary components (except investment for their production) such as AC/DC convertors;</li> </ul>

	transformers, inverters, power meters, batteries, installation expenses and grid connection costs;
<b>Geothermal</b>  Energy or heating generated from geothermal source	Eligible investments examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Geothermal heat pumps;</li> <li>✓ Geothermal plants operating at life cycle emissions lower than 100 CO<sub>2</sub>e/kWh;</li> <li>✓ All ancillary components (except investments for their production) such as AC/DC convertors, transformers, inverters, power meters, batteries, installation expenses and grid connection costs;</li> </ul>
Renewable energy (RE) transmission, distribution and storage solutions	Investments in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Transmission, distribution, direct connection, equipment or expansion of an existing direct connection of renewable electricity generation;</li> <li>✓ Equipment and infrastructure where the main objective is to increase the generation or introduce renewable electricity generation;</li> <li>✓ Mini-grids, smart grids and components;</li> <li>✓ Equipment to increase the controllability and observability of the electricity system and enable the development and integration of renewable energy sources, this includes:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sensors and measurement tools (including meteorological sensors for forecasting renewable production);</li> <li>○ Communication and control (including advanced software and control rooms, automation of substations or feeders, and voltage control capabilities to adapt to more decentralised renewable infeed);</li> <li>○ Equipment to carry information to users for remotely acting on consumption;</li> <li>○ Equipment to allow for exchange of renewable electricity between users;</li> <li>○ Interconnectors between transmission systems, provided that one of the systems is eligible;</li> <li>○ Thermal energy storage equipment;</li> <li>○ Electricity storage equipments/Batteries for the use of renewable energy resources;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Manufacturing of RE products: key components and machinery	Any investment related to production, installation/assembly, increased capacity of manufacturing RE key components and machinery. Any investment related to the production of ancillary components for renewable energies is not eligible.

		NB: this criterion does not apply to Final Recipients that are Natural Persons and/or Housing Associations.	
<b>HOW is the Final Recipient Transaction eligibility assessment made:</b>			
<b>Type of energy</b>	<b>Threshold requirement</b>	<b>Eligibility check for Final Recipients which are SMEs and/or Small Mid-caps</b>	<b>Eligibility check for Final Recipients which are Natural Persons and/or Housing Associations</b>
<b>SOLAR</b>	No specific eligibility/threshold applicable	1. PDF Report Technical Documentation; OR 2. Description of Investment; AND 3 Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;	1. PDF Report Technical Documentation; AND 2. Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;
<b>OCEAN</b>	No specific eligibility/threshold applicable	1. Description of Investment; AND 2. Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;	1. Description of Investment; AND 2. Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;
<b>WIND</b>	No specific eligibility/threshold applicable	1. PDF Report Technical Documentation; OR 2. Description of Investment; AND 3. Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;	1. PDF Report Technical Documentation; AND 2. Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;
<b>GEOHERMAL</b>	Plants operating at life cycle emissions lower than 100gCO <sub>2</sub> e/kWh	1. PDF Report Technical Documentation; OR 2. Technical Documentation with key technical data, in case of plants; AND 3. Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;	1. PDF Report Technical Documentation; AND 2. Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ In case of ancillary components, document evidencing the costs;</li> <li>AND</li> <li>✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;</li> </ul>			

### **RENEWABLE ENERGY (RE) TRANSMISSION, DISTRIBUTION AND STORAGE SOLUTIONS:**

The assessment of the Final Recipient Transaction eligibility is based on:

- ✓ Other Technical Documentation with key technical data;
- AND
- ✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;

### **MANUFACTURING OF RE PRODUCTS: KEY COMPONENTS AND MACHINERY:**

The assessment of the Final Recipient Transaction eligibility is based on:

- ✓ Other Technical Documentation with key technical data;
- AND
- ✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;

### **WHEN should the assessment be made:**

- The purpose of the Final Recipient Transaction and related legal covenants shall be reflected at signature date within the final recipient transaction agreement signed between the Intermediary and the Final Recipient;
- The Technical Documentation must be available prior to the disbursement;
- The documentary evidence of the Control of Use of Funds must have been satisfied prior to the disbursement;

For the avoidance of the doubt, the same document may be used to evidence both the Technical Documentation and Control of Use of Funds, where such document includes the required information.

## 2.2| Green and energy efficient certified buildings-commercial

### **Eligibility Criteria no 2.2**

Investment in the construction or renovation of commercial buildings, resulting in minimum qualifying energy performance, or meeting minimum thresholds.

### **WHAT is eligible:**

### **2.2.1 Investment(s) in renovation of commercial buildings:**

(A) Leading to an improvement in the national Energy Performance Certification (EPC), level by at least one class, in any case not below B class level.

Eligible investments in this category are those contributing to the energy efficiency improvement and ancillary works (including health and safety).

OR

(B) Where savings in Primary Energy Demand (PED) are of at least 30% in comparison to the baseline performance of the building before the renovation, where the reductions in net primary energy demand through renewable energy sources are not taken into account.

### **2.2.2 Investment(s) in renovation of commercial buildings from a pre-defined list of standardized building renovation measures/eligible equipment, concretely:**

#### **(A) Installation of individual measures:**

- Insulation;
- window and door replacements;
- heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment (HVAC); heating equipment based on fossil fuels are not eligible;
- replacement of boilers or stoves, except when based on fossil fuels;

Which comply with the minimum requirements set in the applicable national regulations transposing the Energy Performance Building Directive (EPBD) and also, in the case of products, comply with any applicable Commission implementing regulation under the eco-design Directive 2009/125/EC<sup>3</sup>.

**(B) In addition to the above, the following individual measures are always considered eligible:**

#### **B.1. INSULATION MEASURES**

- i. Insulation like external walls, roofs, green roofs and walls, lofts, basements, ground floors with low thermal conductivity, external cladding and roofing systems with U-value lower or equal to 0.3 W/(m<sup>2</sup>K). Energy efficient windows (U-value lower or equal than 1 W/(m<sup>2</sup>K). This includes measures to ensure air-tightness, measures to reduce the effects of thermal bridges adhesive, etc;
- ii. In the case of replacement of external doors with new energy efficient doors, they shall meet the minimum requirements set for doors in the applicable national regulations transposing the Energy Performance Building Directive (EPBD);

#### **B.2 HEATING/COOLING MEASURES**

- i. Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) and domestic hot water products or packages subject to an EU Energy Label requirement and rated in the highest two significantly populated classes of energy efficiency, or in higher classes as laid down in a delegated act under Regulation (EU) 2017/1369 or Directive 2010/30/EU. Heating equipments based on fossil fuels are not eligible;

- ii. Zoned thermostats, smart thermostat systems (hardware, communication systems and programming software applications) and sensing equipment, e.g. motion and day light control;
- iii. Products for heat metering and thermostatic controls for individual homes connected to district heating systems and individual flats connected to central heating systems serving a whole building;

### **B.3 BUILDING MEASURES**

- i. Energy-efficient building automation and control systems for commercial buildings as defined according to the EN 15232 standard. E.g. Building Automation and Control Systems (BACS), Building Management Systems (BMS) and Energy Management Systems (EMS) e.g. All hardware, meters or sub meters, communication systems and software/programming needed for the supervision of the technical systems of the building and for the monitoring and improvement of the energy consumption of the buildings;
- ii. Façade and roofing elements with a solar shading or solar control function, including those that support the growing of vegetation, passive systems (for example thermal zoning, passive solar gains and daylighting through the glazed façade and natural ventilation strategies) and any other measures that reduce the energy demand of the building not covered elsewhere;

### **B.4. OTHER MEASURES**

- i. Light sources subject to EU energy labelling rules<sup>4</sup> and rated in the highest two significantly populated classes of energy efficiency, or at higher classes and its associated equipment (Cabling, transformers, control systems, etc.);

**2.2.3 Investment(s) in construction for commercial buildings: Buildings below 5000 m<sup>2</sup> upon completion, where the Primary Energy Demand (PED) defining the energy performance of the building is at least 10% lower than the threshold set for the nearly zero-energy building (NZEB).**

**2.2.A Additionally, the following ancillary, type of activities related to any of the eligibility sub-criteria under eligibility criteria number 2.2 are eligible:**

- Technical consultations (architects, energy consultants, energy simulation, project management, production of energy performance certificates (EPC), dedicated training, etc.);
- For SMES, accredited energy audits; for Small Mid-Caps, accredited energy audits excluding mandatory energy audits carried out to comply with Directive 2012/27/EU<sup>5</sup>;
- Building performance assessments;
- Energy management services;
- Energy performance contracts;
- Investments of energy service companies (ESCOs) in equipment to deliver on the energy saving contracts;

#### **HOW is the eligibility assessment made:**

The assessment of the Final Recipient Transaction eligibility is based on:

**(A)** In case of 2.2.1 and 2.2.3, ex-ante Other Technical Documentation such as:

- ✓ Energy performance certificate;
- OR
- ✓ External energy audit;
- OR
- ✓ External technical assessment/opinion;

In each case, performed by an independent expert/supplier.

AND

- ✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;

**(B)** In case of 2.2.2:

- ✓ PDF Report Technical Documentation;
- OR
- ✓ Other Technical Documentation including the technical parameters (e.g. U-value), as applicable, of the relevant individual measure;
  
- ✓ In case of ancillary activities (2.2.A), document(s) proving the services to be provided;

AND

<sup>5</sup> To be noted that Directive 2012/27/EU excludes SMEs from its scope.



✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;

**WHEN should the assessment be made:**

- The purpose of the Final Recipient Transaction and related legal covenants shall be reflected at signature date within the final recipient transaction agreement signed between the Intermediary and the Final Recipient;
- The Technical Documentation must be available prior to the disbursement;
- The documentary evidence of the Control of Use of Funds must have been satisfied prior to the disbursement;

For the avoidance of the doubt, the same document may be used to evidence both the Technical Documentation and Control of Use of Funds, where such document includes the required information.

## 2.3| Green and energy efficient buildings – residential

### **Eligibility Criteria no 2.3**

Investments in renovation of residential buildings, resulting in minimum qualifying energy performance, or meeting minimum thresholds.

#### **WHAT is eligible:**

##### **2.3.1 Investment(s) in renovation measures of residential buildings**

(A) Leading to an improvement in the national Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) level by at least one class, in any case not below B class level. Eligible investments in this category are those contributing to the energy efficiency improvement and ancillary works (including health and safety).

OR

(B) Where savings in Primary Energy Demand are of at least 30% in comparison to the baseline performance before the renovation, where the reductions in net primary energy demand through renewable energy sources are not taken into account.

**2.3.2 Investment(s) in renovation of residential buildings from a pre-defined list of standardised building renovation measures/eligible equipment: as described in eligibility criteria number 2.2.2 except for 2.2.2.B.3. (i) which is not applicable**

**2.3.A Additionally, the following ancillary, type of activities related to any of the eligibility sub-criteria under eligibility criteria number 2.3 are eligible:**

- Technical consultations (architects, energy consultants, energy simulation, project management, production of energy performance certificates (EPC), dedicated training, etc.);
- Building performance assessments;
- Energy management services;
- Energy performance contracts;
- Investments of energy service companies (ESCOs) in equipment to deliver on the energy saving contracts;

### **HOW is the eligibility assessment made:**

The assessment of the Final Recipient Transaction eligibility is based on:

For Final Recipient Transaction under 2.3.1, ex-ante Other Technical Documentation such as:

✓ Energy performance certificate;

OR

✓ External energy audit;

OR

✓ External technical assessment/opinion;

in each case, performed by an independent expert/supplier;

AND

✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;

For Final Recipient Transaction under 2.3.2:

✓ PDF Report Technical Documentation;

OR

✓ Other Technical Documentation including the technical parameters (e.g. U-value), as applicable, of the relevant individual measure;

AND

✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;

In case of ancillary activities (2.3.A), document proving the services to be provided

AND

✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;

### **WHEN should the assessment be made:**

- The purpose of the Final Recipient Transaction and related legal covenants shall be reflected at signature date within the final recipient transaction agreement signed between the Intermediary and the Final Recipient;
- The Technical Documentation must be available prior to the disbursement;
- The documentary evidence of the Control of Use of Funds must have been satisfied prior to the disbursement;

For the avoidance of the doubt, the same document may be used to evidence both the Technical Documentation and Control of Use of Funds, where such document includes the required information.

## 2.4| Industrial energy efficiency

### Eligibility Criteria no 2.4

2.4.1. Investments in standardized energy efficiency measures from a pre-defined list

2.4.2 Investment in technology, equipment or machinery that reduce significantly energy consumption/GHG emissions (including replacements).

#### WHAT is eligible:

#### 2.4.1 Investments in standardized energy efficiency measures from a pre-defined list

**(A) Investment in the purchase/installation of any of the items from the list of pre-defined energy efficiency standardised measures/eligible equipment as described in eligibility criteria number 2.2.2**

**(B) Investments related with the manufacturing of the following:**

- Household appliances (e.g. washing machines, dishwashers) and of space or water heating appliances rated in highest two significantly populated classes of energy efficiency, or in higher classes as laid down in a delegated act under Regulation (EU) 2017/1369 or Directive 2010/30/EU;
- Energy efficient windows (U-value lower or equal to 1.0W/m<sup>2</sup>K);
- Doors with U-value lower or equal to 1.2 W/m<sup>2</sup>K;
- External wall systems (with U-value lower or equal to 0.5 W/m<sup>2</sup>K);
- Insulating products with a lambda value lower or equal to 0.06 W/mK;
- Light sources rated in the highest two populated classes of energy efficiency in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/1369 and delegated acts adopted under that Regulation;
- Space heating and domestic hot water systems;
- Cooling and ventilation systems rated in the highest two populated classes of energy efficiency in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/1369 and delegated acts adopted under that Regulation;
- Presence and daylight controls for lighting systems;
- Heat pumps compliant with the technical screening criteria ((a) refrigerant; threshold: GWP does not exceed 675; (b) energy efficiency requirements laid down in the implementing regulations under Directive 2009/125/EC are met.);
- Energy-efficient building automation and control systems for residential and non-residential buildings;

- Products for heat metering and thermostatic controls for individual homes connected to district heating systems, for individual flats connected to central heating systems serving a whole building, and for central heating systems;
- District heating exchangers and substations compliant with the district heating/cooling distribution activity, except those using natural gas;
- Products for smart monitoring and regulating of heating system, and sensoring equipment;

**(C) Additionally, the following ancillary type of activities related to eligibility criteria number 2.4.1 are eligible:**

- Technical consultations (architects, energy consultants, energy simulation, project management, production of energy performance certificates (EPC), dedicated training, etc.);
- For SMES, accredited energy audits; for Small Mid-Caps, accredited energy audits excluding mandatory energy audits carried out to comply with Directive 2012/27/EU<sup>6</sup>;
- Building performance assessments;
- Energy management services;
- Energy performance contracts;
- Investments of energy service companies (ESCOs), in equipment to deliver on the energy saving contracts;

**2.4.2. Production, installation of products or application of technology that reduce significantly energy consumption/GHG emissions, incl. investment in replacing existing technology, equipment, machines providing at least a decrease in energy use (kWh) of at least 30% or GHG emission reduction of minimum 30%.**

**(A) In the case of industrial EE, - decrease in energy use (kWh) of at least 30% or GHG emission reduction of minimum 30%.**

Such investments may include:

- Electrical equipment;
- Electric motors with VSDs (variable speed drives);
- VSDs;
- Machines, compressors, cranes;
- Investments in upgrades or modernization of processing equipment;
- Investments in upgrades or modernization of production lines;

**(B) Examples of investments in the case of Final Recipients operating in agriculture:**

- The replacement of self-propelled or traction agricultural (farm/forest) machinery (heavy and light duty) if they can demonstrate a substantial reduction (min 30%) in GHG emissions reduction. Until 2025, no restrictions on type of fuel applies;
- Modernization of existing irrigation networks/systems involving energy savings (min 30%) including equipment coupled to such investment;

<sup>6</sup> To be noted that Directive 2012/27/EU excludes SMEs from its scope.

NB: New irrigation and/or expansion of existing irrigation systems are eligible only if the Final Recipient can demonstrate through relevant documentation, compliance with national rules/prior authorisations regarding the abstraction of fresh surface water and groundwater/ good status of the water bodies:

- Investments in upgrades or modernization of processing equipment delivering a 30% reduction of GHG emissions or energy consumption;

#### 2.4.A. RDI activities that support Energy Efficiency.

In all cases, activities should aim to promote substantially lower GHG emissions compared with current practices, except where the current practice is already low in carbon and activities focus on development of equally low- or lower-emission technologies, services or solutions with new advantages, such as lower cost or better usability.

Activities that directly support exploration, extraction, processing or transportation of fossil fuels, or fossil fuel power generation (with the exception of technologies for carbon capture and storage), cannot be considered.

For demonstration plants, a life-cycle GHG emissions assessment must be undertaken by the entity carrying out the RDI calculated using Commission Recommendation 2013/179/EU or, alternatively, using ISO 14067:2018 or ISO 14064-1:2018.

#### HOW is the eligibility assessment made:

Applicable for:	Type of verification
2.4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ PDF Report Technical Documentation; OR</li> <li>✓ Other Technical Documentation including the technical parameters (e.g. U-value), as applicable, of the relevant individual measure;</li> <li>✓ In case of ancillary activities, document proving the services to be provided;</li> </ul> <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;</li> </ul>
2.4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ PDF Report Technical Documentation; OR</li> <li>✓ Other Technical Documentation; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Including the technical parameters, as applicable; OR</li> <li>➤ External ex-ante energy assessment/audit/opinion performed by an independent expert/supplier; OR</li> <li>➤ Internal energy-efficiency plans certified by internal; OR external accredited technical expert or certified under an energy management systems (e.g. ISO 50001); OR</li> <li>➤ Energy (or GHG emission or fuel) ex-ante reduction certified by manufacturers, suppliers or installers,</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>AND</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants.</li> </ul>
2.4.A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Other Technical Documentation describing the aim to lower GHG emissions / lower cost / better usability;</li> </ul> <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants.</li> </ul>

#### WHEN should the assessment be made:

- The purpose of the Final Recipient Transaction and related legal covenants shall be reflected at signature date within the final recipient transaction agreement signed between the Intermediary and the Final Recipient;
- The Technical Documentation must be available prior to the disbursement;
- The documentary evidence of the Control of Use of Funds must have been satisfied prior to the disbursement;

For the avoidance of the doubt, the same document may be used to evidence both the Technical Documentation and Control of Use of Funds, where such document includes the required information.

## 2.5| Zero and low emission mobility

### Eligibility Criteria no 2.5

Investments in low and/or zero emission transport assets, in renewal and retrofitting of transport assets and infrastructure for zero-emission and clean energy vehicles and vessels.

#### WHAT is eligible:

#### For Final Recipients, which are natural persons

##### (A) Vehicles

Full electric passenger vehicles and hydrogen Fuel Cell, vehicle categories: M1, M2, M3.

M1: vehicles used for carriage of passengers, comprising not more than eight seats in addition to the driver's;

In the case of vehicles under category M1, the cost of the vehicle – TVA excluded- must be up to EUR 60,000.

M2: Vehicles used for the carriage of passengers, comprising more than eight seats in addition to the driver's seat, and having a maximum mass not exceeding 5 tonnes;  
 M3: Vehicles used for the carriage of passengers, comprising more than eight seats in addition to the driver's seat, and having a maximum mass exceeding 5 tonnes;

### **(B) Personal mobility devices**

Personal mobility devices where the propulsion comes from the physical activity of the user (e.g. bikes), from a zero-emission motor (e.g. electric trottinettes), or a mix of zero-emissions motor and physical activity (e.g. e-bikes); only devices that are allowed to be operated on the same public infrastructure as bikes or pedestrians are eligible.

## **For Target Final Recipients, which are SMEs or Small Mid-caps**

### **(A). Vehicles**

Passenger cars (category M), light commercial vehicles (N1 such as vans)

- Until 31 December 2025, vehicles with tailpipe emission intensity of max 50 g CO<sub>2</sub>/km (WLTP), or zero tailpipe emission vehicles (e.g. electric, hydrogen).

-From 1 January 2026, only zero tailpipe emission vehicles (e.g. electric, hydrogen).

In the case of vehicles under category M1, the cost of the vehicle – TVA excluded- must be up to EUR 60,000.

### **(B) Motorbikes (L)**

For category L vehicles:

Zero tailpipe emission vehicles (incl. hydrogen, fuel cell, electric).

### **(C) Heavy duty vehicles (N2 and N3)**

For category N2 and N3 vehicles:

C.1. Heavy Duty Vehicles: N2 vehicles, as defined by (Heavy duty CO<sub>2</sub> Regulation (EU) 2019/1242), maximum loaded weight < 7.5 tonnes:

- i. Zero direct emission heavy-duty vehicles that emits less than 1g CO<sub>2</sub>/kWh (or 1g CO<sub>2</sub>/km for certain N2 vehicles);

C.2. Heavy Duty Vehicles: N2 and N3 vehicles, as defined by (Heavy duty CO<sub>2</sub> Regulation (EU) 2019/1242), maximum loaded weight > 7.5 tonnes:

- i. Zero direct emission heavy-duty vehicles that emits less than 1g CO<sub>2</sub>/kWh (or 1g CO<sub>2</sub>/km for certain N2 vehicles);

- ii. Low-emission heavy-duty vehicles with specific direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of less than 50% of the reference CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of all vehicles in the same sub-group.

## **(D) Waterborne**

### **D.1 Inland passenger water transport:**

- i. Zero direct (tailpipe) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions;
- ii. Until 31 December 2025, hybrid and dual fuel vessels derive at least 50% of their energy from zero direct (tailpipe) CO<sub>2</sub> emission fuels or plug-in power for their normal operation;

### **D.2 Inland freight water transport:**

- i. Zero direct (tailpipe) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions;
- ii. Other inland waterway vessels are eligible if direct emissions are below 28.30 gCO<sub>2</sub>/tkm;

### **D.3 Sea and coastal freight transport:**

- i. Zero direct (tailpipe) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions;
- ii. Until 31 December 2025, hybrid and dual power vessels deriving at least 25% of their energy from zero direct (tailpipe) CO<sub>2</sub> emission fuels or plug-in power for their normal operation at sea and in ports;
- iii. Where technologically and economically not feasible to comply with the criterion of zero direct tailpipe, until 31 December 2025, and only where it can be proved that the vessels are used exclusively for the provision of coastal and short sea services designed to enable the modal shift of freight currently transported by land to sea, the vessels have direct (tailpipe) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions below 28.30 gCO<sub>2</sub>/tkm;
- iv. Or until 31 December 2025, if the vessels have an attained Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI) value 10 % below the EEDI requirements applicable on 1 April 2022 if the vessels are able to run on zero direct (tailpipe) CO<sub>2</sub> emission fuels or on fuels from renewable sources meeting green hydrogen and biofuels/biogas criteria as defined by the EU taxonomy (Fuels that meet the technical screening criteria specified in sections 3.10 and 4.13 of Climate DA Annex. - 3.10 - being manufacture of hydrogen, 4.13 being Manufacture of biogas and biofuels for use in transport and of bioliquid);

### **D.4 Sea and coastal passenger transport:**

- i. Zero direct (tailpipe) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions;
- ii. Where technologically and economically not feasible to comply with the criterion of zero direct tailpipe, until 31 December 2025, hybrid and dual fuel vessels deriving at least 25% of their energy from zero direct (tailpipe) CO<sub>2</sub> emission fuels or plug-in power for their normal operation at sea and in ports;
- iii. Where technologically and economically not feasible to comply with the criterion of zero direct tailpipe, until 31 December 2025 if the vessels have an attained an EEDI value 10% below the EEDI requirements applicable on 1 April 2022, if the vessels are able to run on zero direct (tailpipe) emission fuels or on fuels from renewable sources meeting green hydrogen and biofuels/biogas criteria as defined by the EU taxonomy. (Fuels that meet the technical screening criteria specified in sections 3.10 and 4.13 of Climate DA Annex. - 3.10 - being manufacture of hydrogen, 4.13 being Manufacture of biogas and biofuels for use in transport and of bioliquid);



**D.5 Retrofitting inland water freight and passenger transport vessels:**

i. until 31 December 2025, the retrofitting activity reduces fuel consumption of the vessel by at least 10 % expressed in litre of fuel per tonne kilometre, as demonstrated by a comparative calculation for the representative navigation areas (including representative load profiles) in which the vessel is to operate or by means of the results of model tests or simulations.

**D.6 Retrofitting Sea and costal freight and passenger transport vessels:**

i. until 31 December 2025, the retrofitting activity reduces fuel consumption of the vessel by at least 10 % expressed in grams of fuel per deadweight tons per nautical mile, as demonstrated by computational fluid dynamics (CFD), tank tests or similar engineering calculations.

In any case, Vessels are not built, retrofitted and acquired with the explicit intention to predominantly transport or store fossil fuels over the life of the project.

**(E) Rail**

E.1. Rail infrastructure and related subsystems (infrastructure, energy, on-board control-command and signalling, and trackside control-command and signalling subsystems);

E.2. Freight and passenger terminals linking other transport modes to rail;

E.3. Zero-emission (electric, hydrogen) rolling stock for rail, including bi-mode (hybrid propulsion) and freight wagons and passenger coaches that do not have traction of their own

In any case, no support shall be provided to infrastructure and rolling stock with the explicit intention to predominantly transport or store fossil fuels over the life of the project.

**(F) Aviation**

F.1. Ground- and cargo handling, including:

- i. Zero carbon emission (e.g. electric, hydrogen) groundhandling vehicles and equipment e.g. cars, buses, push back tugs, belt loaders, baggage tractors, de-icing vehicles, snow plows, passenger airstairs, airport pallet trucks, main and lower deck loaders, power tractors, ground power units, cool container dollies and other;
- ii. Provision of fixed electrical ground power and preconditioned air to stationary aircraft;

F.2. Zero-emission small aircraft (e.g. electric, hydrogen powered aeroplane, helicopter, drone for transport purposes; below 20 seats – manned and unmanned);

In the area of sustainable aviation fuels : manufacture of biofuels<sup>7</sup> and hydrogen (including hydrogen-based synthetic fuels)<sup>8</sup>, including the equipment, infrastructures and services for the production of such biofuels and hydrogen<sup>9</sup>, as well as the manufacture of equipment for the use of hydrogen<sup>10</sup>.

### **(G) Personal mobility devices**

Personal mobility devices where the propulsion comes from the physical activity of the user (e.g. bikes), from a zero-emission motor (e.g. electric trottinettes), or a mix of zero-emissions motor and physical activity (e.g. e-bikes); only devices that are allowed to be operated on the same public infrastructure as bikes or pedestrians are eligible.

### **(H) Infrastructure**

Infrastructure that is dedicated to the operation of vehicles, aircraft, vessels or personal mobility devices with zero tailpipe CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: electric charging points, electricity grid connection upgrades, hydrogen fuelling stations or electric road systems. Infrastructure and installations that are dedicated to transshipping freight between the modes: terminal infrastructure and superstructures for loading, unloading and transshipment of goods.

### **HOW is the eligibility assessment made:**

The assessment of the Final Recipient Transaction eligibility is based on::

- ✓ Other Technical Documentation: manual/certificate evidencing type of transport asset and CO<sub>2</sub> emission and the Financial Intermediary verification of the relevant threshold (s);
- OR
- ✓ PDF Report Technical Documentation;
- OR
- ✓ Only for the renewal and retrofitting of vessels, Other Technical Documentation: ex-ante external energy audit, performed by an independent expert/supplier;

<sup>7</sup> Subject to complying with the following characteristics:

- Biofuels are produced from the sustainable feedstock listed in Parts A & B of Annex IX of Directive (EU) 2018/200135 (exceptions can be made for innovative processes development and demonstration purposes, on a case by case basis).
- Production of biofuels for transport comply with the GHG saving targets outlined in Article 29 of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 (par. 1 and par. 10) – i.e. 65%. Electricity/heat/cool production from bioenergy, as outlined in activities 14, 15 and 16 of the energy section of this guidance, are compliant with the GHG saving targets outlined in Article 29 of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 (par. 1 and par. 10) – i.e. 80%. Calculation methods should take into consideration EU taxonomy DA and RED II provisions with regards to CO<sub>2</sub> capture where and if applicable.
- The biomass feedstock, when sourced from inside the EU, is compliant with the sustainability criteria of EU Directive 2018/2001 (and article 29 in particular) and EU Timber Regulation No. 995/2010.
- The biomass feedstock, when sourced from outside the EU, is aligned with the principles of the sustainability criteria of the EU Directive 2018/2001. The forest biomass shall, at a minimum, be certified or aligned (e.g. roadmap) with international sustainable forest certification standards (e.g. FSC/PEFC), and shall be aligned with the EU Timber Regulation No. 995/2010

<sup>8</sup> Subject to complying with the following criteria: life-cycle GHG emissions savings requirement of 73.4% for hydrogen [resulting in life-cycle GHG emissions lower than 3t CO<sub>2</sub>e/tH<sub>2</sub>] and 70% for hydrogen-based synthetic fuels relative to a fossil fuel comparator of 94g CO<sub>2</sub>e/MJ in analogy to the approach set out in Article 25(2) of and Annex V to Directive (EU) 2018/2001

<sup>9</sup> Equipment covered includes: 1) *electrolisers for hydrogen production*; 2) *carbon capture equipment*..

<sup>10</sup> Equipment covered includes *hydrogen fuel cells*

<p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants.</li> </ul>
<p><b>WHEN should the assessment be made:</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The purpose of the Final Recipient Transaction and related legal covenants shall be reflected at signature date within the final recipient transaction agreement signed between the Intermediary and the Final Recipient;</li> <li>• The Technical Documentation must be available prior to the disbursement;</li> <li>• The documentary evidence of the Control of Use of Funds must have been satisfied prior to the disbursement;</li> </ul> <p>For the avoidance of the doubt, the same document may be used to evidence both the Technical Documentation and Control of Use of Funds, where such document includes the required information.</p>

## 2.6| Green ICT for climate mitigation

### Eligibility Criteria no 2.6

Developing or adopting green Information Communication Technology (ICT) and digital solutions, tools, equipment, applications that enable a decrease in energy consumption/pollutant emissions, or contribute to climate mitigation objectives.

<p><b>WHAT is eligible:</b></p>
<p><b>(A) Greening the ICT sector</b></p> <p><b>A.1. Green data centers</b></p> <p>Data processing, hosting and related activities that meet the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The activity has introduced all relevant practices listed as ‘expected practices’ in the most recent version of the European Code of Conduct on Data Centre Energy Efficiency<sup>11</sup>, or in CEN-CENELEC document CLC TR50600-99-1 ‘Data centre facilities and infrastructures - Part 99-1: Recommended practices for energy management’. The implementation of those practices is verified by an independent third-party and audited at least every 3 years.</li> <li>ii. Where an expected practice is not considered relevant due to physical, logistical, planning or other constraints, an explanation as to why the expected practice is not applicable or practical is provided. Alternative best practices from the European Code of Conduct on Data Centre Energy Efficiency or other equivalent sources may be identified as direct replacements if they result in similar energy savings.</li> </ol>

<sup>11</sup> [2021 Best Practice Guidelines for the EU Code of Conduct on Data Centre Energy Efficiency | E3P \(europa.eu\)](#)

- iii. The global warming potential (GWP) of refrigerants used in the data centre cooling system does not exceed 675.

**(B) Sustainability linked ICT solutions:**

**B.1) ICT solutions for decarbonised energy networks, where such solutions are used for the provision of enabling GHG emissions savings or energy reductions of at least 30%, such as:**

- 1) Energy efficient data platforms and data flows;
- 2) Energy efficient super computing, energy efficient AI and blockchain algorithms;
- 3) Digitalisation of decarbonised grids;
- 4) Big data solutions for energy;
- 5) Semi-conductors;

**B.2) Smart grids and related ICT solutions:**

**Smart technologies (incl. IoT, AI) for:**

- 1) Smart grid automation;
- 2) Flexible energy distribution;
- 3) Smart metering;
- 4) Real-time smart grid software suite;

**HOW is the eligibility assessment made:**

For Final Recipient Transaction under (A):

- ✓ Other Technical Documentation;
- AND
- ✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;

For Final Recipient Transaction under (B):

- ✓ Business/project plan;
- AND
- ✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;

**WHEN should the assessment be made:**

- The purpose of the Final Recipient Transaction and related legal covenants shall be reflected at signature date within the final recipient transaction agreement signed between the Intermediary and the Final Recipient;
- Where applicable, the Technical Documentation must be available prior to the disbursement;

- The documentary evidence of the Control of Use of Funds must have been satisfied prior to the disbursement;

For the avoidance of the doubt, the same document may be used to evidence both the Technical Documentation and Control of Use of Funds, where such document includes the required information.

## 3| Investments for climate adaptation

### 3.1| Climate resilience

#### Eligibility Criteria no 3.1

Investments that enable a higher climate resilience of the company or the territory against climate change and climate-related events *and/or reduce climate vulnerabilities for agriculture*.

#### WHAT is eligible:

Investments must respect EU environmental protection standards, they should not lock in assets that undermine the long-term environmental goals and nature-based solutions should be prioritised.

These investments include:

#### (A) Investments to reduce climate vulnerabilities in agriculture:

- i. Drought/flood tolerant crops (as per the national/regional/local/city climate change adaptation strategies and/or plans) /new crop variety;
- ii. Crop storage;
- iii. Precision farming measures related to climate adaptation, including digital solutions or other applications for weather and hydrological monitoring and forecasting;
- iv. Pressurised irrigation technologies using sprinkler, drip or other high efficient drip systems<sup>12</sup>;
- v. Temperature regulation for livestock;
- vi. Other investments with a significant increase in climate resilience of agricultural activities and practices, including digital solutions or other applications;

#### (B) Investments in digital technologies dedicated to enhancing resilience to climate change such as digital solutions for advanced weather monitoring and forecasting,

<sup>12</sup> New irrigation and/or expansion of existing irrigation systems are eligible only if the beneficiary can demonstrate through relevant documentation, compliance with national rules/prior authorisations regarding the abstraction of fresh surface water and groundwater/ good status of the water bodies

communication technologies for dissemination of weather- climate related information and early warning systems;

- (C) Research and innovation investments that increase resilience to climate change adaptation;
- (D) Nature-based solutions<sup>13</sup> and ecosystem-based management measures, including green and blue infrastructure<sup>14</sup>, prevention and control of floods (e.g. dykes construction/upgrade, expansion and/or upgrade of hydraulic structures to increase discharge capacity, storm-water management, disaster preparedness activities, early warning systems, ecosystem restoration, natural hazard disaster risk management and reduction etc.) and erosion phenomena;
- (E) Specific measures required to reduce climate vulnerabilities as identified in the assessment of climate risk and as laid out in the national/ regional/ municipal climate change adaptation strategies and/or plans, including related to water management and agriculture;
- (F) Investments reducing the effect of climate change in cities, specifically the ones related to urban heat islands (e.g. green and cool roofs, introduction of materials with high solar reflectance and infrared emittance on facades, roofs and pavements, exterior shading devices, urban forests, etc.);
- (G) Investments in protecting the Final Recipient's premises and natural capital assets against the impacts of extreme weather events including temperature-related (e.g. ventilative cooling) wind-related and water-related (e.g. permeable pavement, floodgates, anti-flooding valves and airbrick covers);
- (H) Any other investments that enable climate change adaptation of other businesses or entities (including manufacture, purchase, installation, design, promotion or enabling uptake and implementation);

#### **HOW is the eligibility assessment made:**

The assessment of the Final Recipient Transaction eligibility is based on:

Description of Investment, and additionally:

- ✓ For 3.1 (E), reference to a national/regional/local/city climate change adaptation strategies and/or plans;

AND

<sup>13</sup> Nature-based solutions are defined as 'solutions that are inspired and supported by nature, which are cost effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience. Such solutions bring more, and more diverse, nature and natural features and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes, through locally adapted, resource-efficient and systemic interventions'. Therefore, nature-based solutions benefit biodiversity and support the delivery of a range of ecosystem services.

<sup>14</sup> According to the EU Green Infrastructure Strategy (COM(2013)249 final), green (and blue) infrastructure is a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services. It incorporates green spaces (or blue if aquatic ecosystems are concerned) and other physical features in terrestrial (including coastal) and marine areas. On land, green infrastructure is present in rural and urban settings.

- ✓ For 3.1 (A) iv, proof of permits/compliance with national environmental legislation, including but not limited to:
  - i. documentation of the irrigation project prepared only by “hydrologic planning engineers” authorised by national authorities; or
  - ii. a certificate from the national water regulatory authorities (managing the water rights on water bodies) in relation to the availability of water for irrigation, or
  - iii. water use permit issued for the yearly operation of irrigation system;

AND

- ✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;

#### **WHEN should the assessment be made:**

- The purpose of the Final Recipient Transaction and related legal covenants shall be reflected at signature date within the final recipient transaction agreement signed between the Intermediary and the Final Recipient;
- Where applicable, the Technical Documentation must be available prior to the disbursement,
- Where applicable the proof of permits/compliance with national environmental legislation, must be available prior to the disbursement,
- The documentary evidence of the Control of Use of Funds must have been satisfied prior to the disbursement.

For the avoidance of the doubt, the same document may be used to evidence both the technical data and Control of Use of Funds, where such document includes the required information.

## 4| Investments related to transition to circular economy, waste prevention and recycling

### 4.1| Sustainable use of materials

#### **Eligibility Criteria no 4.1**

- 1) Investments that contribute to the circular economy transition, by allowing reduction of primary raw material use and/or higher use of secondary materials compared to existing practice;
- 2) Investments in activities that are key to net resource saving through reuse, repair, refurbish, remanufacturing, repurpose or recycling activities;

#### **WHAT is eligible:**

#### **4.1.1 Investments that contribute to the circular economy transition, by allowing reduction of primary raw material use and/or higher use of secondary materials compared to existing practice**

Projects/investments:

- i. That allow for a reduction of primary raw material use of min. 20%, including substituting virgin materials with secondary/recycled materials or with the waste or by products from other industrial process;
- ii. That allow for a higher use of secondary raw materials, waste or by-product from other industrial process of min. 20% compared to current practice, in any case, not below 20% overall use;
- iii. Investments in manufacturing of product(s) with demonstrated superior recyclability – product recyclability of above 80%;
- iv. Development and sustainable production of new materials (including bio-based materials) that are reusable, recyclable or compostable;

#### **4.1.2 Investments in activities that are key to net resource saving through reuse, repair, refurbish, remanufacturing, repurpose or recycling activities**

Projects/investments such as:

- i. Refurbishment, retrofitting and remanufacturing of end-of-life or redundant products/movable assets;
- ii. Businesses with main activity/investing in the reuse and repair of consumer products (e.g. clothing, furniture, bicycles, household appliances);

#### **HOW is the eligibility assessment made:**

For Final Recipient Transactions complying with eligibility criteria 4.1.1 the assessment is based on:

- ✓ Other Technical Documentation such as: external assessment/certification showing of reduction of primary raw material / higher use of secondary raw materials, waste or by-products from other industrial process in line with relevant thresholds, as applicable;

AND

- ✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;

For Final Recipient Transactions complying with eligibility criteria 4.1.2 the assessment is based on:

- ✓ The Final Recipient is operating in or the financed activity is categorized in any of the following sectors defined by NACE:
  - i. G47.79 Retail sale of second-hand goods in stores;
  - ii. C33.1 repair of fabricated metal products, machinery and equipment;
  - iii. S95.1 repair of computers and communication equipment;
  - iv. S95.2 repair of personal and household goods

AND

- ✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants.



<b>WHEN should the assessment be made:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The purpose of the Final Recipient Transaction and related legal covenants shall be reflected at signature date within the final recipient transaction agreement signed between the Intermediary and the Final Recipient;</li> <li>• Where applicable, the Technical Documentation must be available prior to the disbursement;</li> <li>• The documentary evidence of the Control of Use of Funds must have been satisfied prior to the disbursement;</li> </ul> <p>For the avoidance of the doubt, the same document may be used to evidence both the Technical Documentation and Control of Use of Funds, where such document includes the required information.</p>

## 4.2| Waste reduction, collection, recovery

### **Eligibility Criteria no 4.2**

Investments in the segregated collection of waste, redundant products, parts, materials and residues in order to enable high quality recycling, reuse, recovery and/or valorisation.

<b>WHAT is eligible:</b>
<p>Projects/investments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(A) Equipment, transport and building infrastructure needed to organise the take back and reverse flow of products and materials to relevant facilities for repair, refurbishing, remanufacturing recycling or dismantling;</li> <li>(B) Movable equipment (bins, containers);</li> <li>(C) Waste collection and transport vehicles allowing high quality waste collection and management, meeting at least EURO V standard;</li> <li>(D) Equipment for waste collection and waste management (including segregated collection or sorting);</li> <li>(E) Reuse, repair, refurbishing, repurposing and remanufacturing of end-of-life or redundant products, movable assets and their components that would otherwise be discarded;</li> </ul> <p>Investments concerning disposal listed in Annex I of Directive 2008/98/15 (e.g. landfilling, permanent storage, incineration) will not be supported.</p>
<b>HOW is the eligibility assessment made:</b>

<sup>15</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02008L0098-20180705>

The assessment of the Final Recipient Transaction eligibility is based on:

- ✓ Financial Intermediary verification as per its underwriting process, based on Final Recipient is operating or the financed activity is categorized in any of the following sectors defined by NACE codes:

- i. E38.1 Waste collection, where at least 50% of waste is recycled;
- ii. E38.3.2 Recovery of sorted materials;
- iii. G46.77 Wholesale of waste and scrap;

AND

- Other Technical Documentation: Where applicable, for any threshold requirement verification will be made through an external technical assessment;

AND

- Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;

If the investment concerns waste recovery or where a company disposes its own non-hazardous waste at the place of production – the Financial Intermediary shall verify if the Final Recipient has a permit or at least registration with the relevant national/regional/local authorities (NB! for hazardous waste, a permit will be needed).

If the investment concerns collection, transport or use of waste from other operators for the business activity of the company – the Financial Intermediary shall verify if the Final Recipient has a registration with the relevant national/regional/local authorities.

#### **WHEN should the assessment be made:**

- The purpose of the Final Recipient Transaction and related legal covenants shall be reflected at signature date within the final recipient transaction agreement signed between the Intermediary and the Final Recipient;
- Where applicable, the Technical Documentation must be available prior to the disbursement;
- The documentary evidence of the Control of Use of Funds must have been satisfied prior to the disbursement;

For the avoidance of the doubt, the same document may be used to evidence both the Technical Documentation and Control of Use of Funds, where such document includes the required information.

## 4.3| Product as a service, reuse and sharing models that enable circular economy strategies

### **Eligibility Criteria no 4.3**

Product-as-a-service, reuse and sharing models based on, inter alia, leasing, pay-per-use, subscription or deposit return schemes, that enable circular economy.

#### **WHAT is eligible:**

<p>This category can be based on, inter alia, leasing, pay-per-use, subscription or deposit return schemes. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(A) leasing products with circular design (e.g. increased durability, modularity, easy disassembly and repair);</li> <li>(B) provisions for product/asset return at the end of the first lease lifecycle with subsequent refurbishment/repair to enable re-lease for additional lease lifecycles in ‘as new’ quality condition;</li> <li>(C) investments that substitute or lead to a substantial reduction of substances of concern in materials, products and assets;</li> </ul>
<p><b>HOW is the eligibility assessment made:</b></p>
<p>The assessment of the Final Recipient Transaction eligibility is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Financial Intermediary verification as per its underwriting process, based on Final Recipient activity</li> </ul> <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;</li> </ul>
<p><b>WHEN should the assessment be made:</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The purpose of the Final Recipient Transaction and related legal covenants shall be reflected at signature date within the final recipient transaction agreement signed between the Intermediary and the Final Recipient;</li> <li>• The documentary evidence of the Control of Use of Funds must have been satisfied prior to the disbursement;</li> </ul>

## 4.4| Green ICT enabling circular economy business models

### Eligibility Criteria no 4.4

Development/deployment of tools, applications, and services enabling circular economy business models.

<p><b>WHAT is eligible:</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(A) ICT tools for predictive maintenance and repair with the predominant aim to extend the life of products;</li> <li>(B) Digital solutions for traceability of materials to support future recycling;</li> <li>(C) Digital tools and applications to facilitate reverse logistics (tracking, take-back of products for reuse, repair or recycling), improve circular resource efficiency and avoidance of waste production (e.g. food waste in restaurants, shops);</li> </ul>

- (D) Virtual marketplaces for secondary raw materials or second hand/repaired/upgraded products;
- (E) Digital solutions that support the creation of new recycling systems;
- (F) Digital tools and applications for consumer and industries' awareness raising/education on the application and benefits of different circular economy strategies;
- (G) Advisory services to companies for strategising, preparing and implementing circular economy transitions;
- (H) Transition to energy and material efficient mobile and fixed telecommunication services by adopting circular economy principles in the telecommunication equipment and consumer electronic (improving durability, reuse, update, reparability, refurbishment, recycling);

#### **HOW is the eligibility assessment made:**

The assessment of the Final Recipient Transaction eligibility is based on:

- ✓ Financial Intermediary verification as per its underwriting process, based on Final Recipient's Business / Project Plan;
- AND
- ✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;

#### **WHEN should the assessment be made:**

- The purpose of the Final Recipient Transaction and related legal covenants shall be reflected at signature date within the final recipient transaction agreement signed between the Intermediary and the Final Recipient;
- The documentary evidence of the Control of Use of Funds must have been satisfied prior to the disbursement;

## 5|Investments related to environmental impact and sustainable management of natural resources

### 5.1| Water resources

#### **Eligibility Criteria no 5.1**

Investments in water resource management and efficiency and related technologies.

#### **WHAT is eligible:**

Investments in:

**(A) Modernisation of infrastructures if designed to improve water conservation, efficiency, reuse and discharge reduction:**

- i. Water-saving systems and their components (incl. technologies) that will lead to at least a 10% decrease in water use;
- ii. Installation of water-saving new modern machines, equipment and fittings (e.g. irrigation machines, pumps, filters, pipelines, fittings, remote control systems, meteorological station, ground probes, water meters);
- iii. Water treatment technology for water reuse;
- iv. Implementation of measures resulting from compliance with a certification scheme, such as: EWS Standard, <http://www.ewp.eu/ews-standard>, Sustainability Certification Program <https://www.wqa.org/Sustainability>
- v. Water efficiency of buildings;
- vi. Water savings technologies (smart water meters, pressure control technologies);
- vii. Water flow and level measurement and monitoring and water quality monitoring;
- viii. Improvement and digitisation on water monitoring networks;

**(B) Reduction of runoff, increment of percolation and retention measures:**

- i. Collection of run-off water for later use;
- ii. Runoff control measures for improving infiltration;
- iii. Investment in enhancing infiltration of rainwater;
- iv. Drainage systems, combination of drainage with water retention;
- v. Improving watershed management;
- vi. Water storage (including insulation) and harvesting (e.g. design and construction of a reservoir, for the retention and storage of precipitation and accumulated inland water falling on the area);
- vii. Shift from combined to separated sewer/storm water systems;

**(C) Support for more precise management of irrigation that results in water savings and efficiency:**

- Irrigation that leads to water savings of at least a 10% decrease in water use;
- Precision irrigation technologies (e.g. variable rate irrigation, micro-irrigation, combination with liquid fertilisation);
- Development and reconstruction of irrigation infrastructure and related structures;

NB: New irrigation and/or expansion of existing irrigation systems are eligible only if the beneficiary can demonstrate through relevant documentation, compliance with national rules/prior authorisations regarding the abstraction of fresh surface water and groundwater/ good status of the water bodies.

**(D) ICT applications and solutions that are dedicated to:**

- i. Hydrological modelling and forecasting;
- ii. Smart water management, including advanced metering and monitoring technologies;

iii. Increasing water savings, conservation and efficiency, or improving water quality;

### HOW is the eligibility assessment made:

Applicable for:	Type of verification:
(A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Description of Investment, and where applicable</li> <li>✓ Other Technical Documentation such as:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ External certification/technical documentation to prove the improvement in water efficiency/consumption, where relevant;</li> </ul> </li> <li>OR               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Technical documentation from suppliers, installers, other as applicable;</li> <li>➤ Proof of compliance with relevant certification scheme;</li> </ul> </li> <li>AND               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
(B)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Description of Investment;</li> <li>AND               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
(C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Description of Investment;</li> <li>AND               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ proof of permits/compliance with national environmental legislation, including but not limited to:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Documentation of the irrigation project prepared only by “hydrologic planning engineers” authorised by national authorities;</li> </ul> </li> <li>OR                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii. A certificate from the national water regulatory authorities (managing the water rights on water bodies) in relation to the availability of water for irrigation;</li> <li>iii. Water use permit issued for the yearly operation of irrigation system;</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>AND               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Other Technical Documentation Ex-ante external certification for Irrigation that leads to water savings of at least a 10% decrease in water use;</li> </ul> </li> <li>AND               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
(D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Business/project plan;</li> <li>AND               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### WHEN should the assessment be made:

- The purpose of the Final Recipient Transaction and related legal covenants shall be reflected at signature date within the final recipient transaction agreement signed between the Intermediary and the Final Recipient;
- Where applicable, the technical Documentation must be available prior to the disbursement;
- Where applicable the proof of permits/compliance with national environmental legislation, must be available prior to the disbursement;
- The documentary evidence of the Control of Use of Funds must have been satisfied prior to the disbursement;

For the avoidance of the doubt, the same document may be used to evidence both the Technical Documentation and Control of Use of Funds, where such document includes the required information.

## 5.2| Pollution prevention and control

### Eligibility Criteria no 5.2

Investments in reduction, control and prevention of pollutant emissions into air and noise reduction.

### WHAT is eligible:

Investment in cleaner production technologies or end of pipe mitigation technologies including manufacture of essential products, key components and new tech that reduce emissions of pollutants into the air and investment in noise reduction.

This includes:

- (A) Investments in equipment that will substantially reduce air pollution (PM 2.5, PM 10 particles, NH<sub>3</sub> (ammonia), CH<sub>4</sub> (methane)) such as: boilers, scrubbers, multiclones dust collectors, manure storage, biogas installations (NH<sub>3</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> emissions);
- (B) End-of-pipe solutions to reduce particulate emissions to air such as filters;
- (C) Low-emission techniques to incorporate manure in the soil and nitrogen inorganic fertilisers, the measure with the greatest potential to reduce NH<sub>3</sub> emissions;
- (D) Investments in industrial noise abatement such as: acousting enclosures (machine guards), acrylic glass, noise barriers;
- (E) In aviation, centralised de-icing pads to avoid contamination of groundwater;

### HOW is the eligibility assessment made:

The assessment of the Final Recipient Transaction eligibility is based on:

- ✓ Description of the investment;
- AND
- ✓ Other Technical Documentation as applicable;
- AND
- ✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;

**WHEN should the assessment be made:**

- The purpose of the Final Recipient Transaction and related legal covenants shall be reflected at signature date within the final recipient transaction agreement signed between the Intermediary and the Final Recipient;
- Where applicable, the Technical Documentation must be available prior to the disbursement;
- The documentary evidence of the Control of Use of Funds must have been satisfied prior to the disbursement;

For the avoidance of the doubt, the same document may be used to evidence both the Technical Documentation and Control of Use of Funds, where such document includes the required information.

## 6| Protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems- Nature-based solutions

### **Eligibility Criteria no 6.1**

Investments in nature-based solutions or financing of enterprises operating in sectors providing nature-based solutions.

**WHAT is eligible:**

**(A) Investments in nature-based solutions or Final Recipients operating in sectors providing nature-based solutions**

**(B) Investments or enterprises operating or providing services in:**

- i. Landscape/green spaces restoration and management. This action includes protection, restoration and effective management of areas of significant ecological value on land or sea, such as Natura 2000 sites, protected areas (e.g. national parks, nature reserves, ecological sites, landscape parks, wetland or seagrass restoration), protection of species of EU interest, habitats of pollinators, functional areas (e.g. ecological corridors) and areas protected under the Marine and Water Framework Directives;



- ii. Green buildings: Living green roofs, facades, living green indoor/outdoor walls;
- iii. Sustainable biomaterials for construction (e.g. timber frames) or food preservation (e.g. edible coatings);
- iv. Sustainable tourism and NBS for health & wellbeing, solutions that improve the environmental performance or reduce the environmental impacts, including agritourism, eco-tourism and nature-based or forestry tourism, as well as projects that promote the conservation of natural and cultural heritage and landscape;
- v. Advisory services such as urban greening design & planning, landscape architecture, water management;
- vi. ICT solutions that explicitly aim to contribute to the conservation and protection of biodiversity, ecosystems and the services they provide, such as:
  - monitoring and sensor technology;
  - data analysis and processing;
  - assessment and decision making, communication and networking;
  - biodiversity information and education;

### HOW is the eligibility confirmed:

The assessment of the Final Recipient Transaction eligibility is based on:

- ✓ Description of Investment;
- AND
- ✓ Self-declaration from the Final Recipient stating that the purpose of transaction or its core business contributes to the protection, conservation and/or restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems;
- ✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;

For investments involving the restoration of a polluted/contaminated site, the Financial Intermediary shall ask for a self-declaration from the Final Recipient that, to the best of his/her knowledge, the investment does not concern restoration of a site where pollution<sup>16</sup>/contamination/environmental damage<sup>17</sup> has taken place after 21st April 2007, or

<sup>16</sup> means the direct or indirect introduction, as a result of human activity, of substances, vibrations, heat or noise into air, water or land which may be harmful to human health or the quality of the environment, result in damage to material property, or impair or interfere with amenities and other legitimate uses of the environment (source Directive 2010/75 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32010L0075&qid=1399014331474>)

<sup>17</sup> see Article 2 of the Environmental Liability Directive

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32004L0035&qid=1635414914261>

if this is the case – then a self-declaration that the Final Recipient is not the "operator" (natural or legal, private or public person) who operated or controlled the occupational activity leading to the contamination/pollution/environmental damage.

#### **WHEN should the assessment be made:**

- The purpose of the Final Recipient Transaction and related legal covenants shall be reflected at signature date within the final recipient transaction agreement signed between the Intermediary and the Final Recipient;
- The documentary evidence of the Control of Use of Funds must have been satisfied prior to the disbursement.

## 7| Agricultural and forestry activities

### 7.1| Sustainable forests and other climate mitigation investments

#### **Eligibility Criteria no 7.1**

Investments in afforestation, reforestation, forest rehabilitation/restoration including related equipment as well as sustainable forest management (SFM).

#### **WHAT is eligible:**

Investments include:

- (A) Investments in reforestation and/or afforestation<sup>18</sup>, such as nurseries, urban or roadside mini-forests, green “infrastructure” with the purpose of protecting against soil erosion and/or torrential flow prevention and mitigation measures, including expenses in forest site preparations for planting;
- (B) Investments in forest protection and/or restoration/rehabilitation<sup>19</sup> and deployment of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) practices, including pruning and tending, fire prevention and fire-fighting measures, protection from pests and/or wildlife, etc;
- (C) Investments in equipment and technologies to support SFM as well as reforestation or afforestation efforts, e.g. drones for early fire detection or seeding (i.e. firing seed-pods);

#### **HOW is the eligibility assessment made:**

<sup>18</sup> The use of non-native habitats and species should be excluded, unless this is justified by ecosystem and climatic conditions

<sup>19</sup> Idem

<p>The assessment of the Final Recipient Transactions eligibility is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Description of investment including compliance documentation with the definition of sustainable forest management established in pan-European framework of Forest Europe technical documents;</li> </ul> <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;</li> </ul>
<p><b>WHEN should the assessment be made:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The purpose of the Final Recipient Transaction and related legal covenants shall be reflected at signature date within the final recipient transaction agreement signed between the Intermediary and the Final Recipient;</li> <li>• The documentary evidence of the Control of Use of Funds must have been satisfied prior to the disbursement;</li> </ul>

## 7.2| Sustainable and organic agricultural or aquacultural practices

### Eligibility Criteria no 7.2

Investments in new or existing sustainable and/or organic primary crop and/or existing sustainable animal (incl. livestock and aquaculture) production activities conducted by certified operators or in supporting business to convert to organic and/or sustainable certified production, which do not lead to the conversion, fragmentation or intensification of use of natural habitats (particularly areas of high-biodiversity value).

<p><b>WHAT is eligible:</b></p>
<p><b>Investments include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(A) Conversion/maintenance to/of organic farming;</li> <li>(B) Pest management practices- including buffer strips without pesticides, resilient pest-resistant crops, mechanical weed control, etc;</li> <li>(C) Agro-ecology practices, practices and standards as set under organic farming rules, including crop rotation, mixed/multi cropping;</li> <li>(D) Precision farming including nutrients management plan, use of innovative approaches to minimise nutrient release, optimal pH for nutrient uptake, circular agriculture, precision crop farming to reduce inputs (e.g. fertilisers, water, plant protection products), improving irrigation efficiency;</li> <li>(E) Any other agricultural practice included in the list of Agricultural practices that Eco-schemes could support, as listed in factsheet-agri-practices-under-ecoscheme_en.pdf (europa.eu);</li> <li>(F) Non traditional crops, including, among others, algae, proteins from insects used for fish and animal nutrition etc;</li> </ul>

### HOW is the eligibility assessment made:

The assessment of the Final Recipient Transactions eligibility is based on:

- ✓ Business plan for implementing new measures, expansion of and/or conversion to organic and/or sustainable production;
- ✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;

### WHEN should the assessment be made:

The purpose of the Final Recipient Transaction and related legal covenants shall be reflected at signature date within the final recipient transaction agreement signed between the Intermediary and the Final Recipient;  
The documentary evidence of the Control of Use of Funds must have been satisfied prior to the disbursement.

## 8| Accessibility criteria

### Eligibility Criteria no 8.1

Investments to enhance accessibility of services, products and infrastructures and to develop assistive technologies as well as for making the organisation and its premises accessible for customers and employees with disabilities and/or impaired function.

### WHAT is eligible:

Investments include:

- (A) Introducing or enhancing accessibility features of mainstream technologies and products such as computers, operating systems, vehicles, home appliances, phones, and/or services including online services or web content and infrastructures;
- (B) Investments of SMEs/small mid-cap's that provide accessibility services (including consultancy services) in order to make accessible products and services that have barriers that hinder their usage or consumption by persons with disabilities and/or impaired function;
- (C) Development and deployment of assistive technology including based on robotics (e.g. wheelchair elevators, adapted cars, racks, ramps, sensors and lightning guidance, tactile devices, sound, signing, etc.) or artificial intelligence or other new technologies;
- (D) Improve accessibility of the facilities of SME's/small mid-caps including buildings and digital tools including websites and mobile applications for the employees (i.e. adaptation of workplaces) and customers with disabilities and/or with physical or mental impairments;

### HOW is the eligibility assessment made:

The assessment of the Final Recipient Transactions eligibility is based on:

- ✓ Description of the investments;
- ✓ Control of Use of Funds together with legal covenants;

**WHEN should the assessment be made:**

- The purpose of the Final Recipient Transaction and related legal covenants shall be reflected at signature date within the final recipient transaction agreement signed between the Intermediary and the Final Recipient;
- The documentary evidence of the Control of Use of Funds must have been satisfied prior to the disbursement;

## Appendix I – List of Green Prizes

1. COUNTRY	2. PRIZE NAME	3. PRIZE WEBSITE	4. ELIGIBLE SUBCATEGORIES	5. AWARDING ORGANISATION
<b>Austria</b>	Austrian State Prize - Clean Technology Austria (5 prizes)	<a href="#"><u>Clean Technology Austria</u></a>	Environment, Climate and Energy, Research and Innovation, Special Prize 2018 Resource Efficiency	Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK)
<b>Belgium</b>	Belgian Business Awards for the Environment (BBAE) (4 prizes)	<a href="#"><u>BBAE</u></a>	Management, Product and Services, Process, Business and Biodiversity	Federation of Belgian Enterprises
<b>Belgium</b>	Best Belgian Sustainability Report (2 prizes)	<a href="#"><u>Sustainability Reports</u></a>	“Best impact Sustainability Report” per category, “Best 1st Sustainability Report” cross-category	Belgian Institute of Registered Auditors (IBR-IRE)
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Responsible Business Award (1 prize)	<a href="#"><u>Responsible Business Award</u></a>	Investor in Environment,	Bulgarian business leaders forum
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Innovative Company of the Year - Green innovation award (1 prize)	<a href="#"><u>Innovative Company of the Year</u></a>	Green innovation	Applied Research and Communications Fund (ARC Fund)
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Sustainable investment Award - Investor of the year (1 prize)	<a href="#"><u>Investor of the year award</u></a>	Green Investment of the Year	Invest Bulgaria Agency
<b>Croatia</b>	Croatian Sustainability Index Awards (1 prize)	<a href="#"><u>Croatian Sustainability Index Awards</u></a>	Environment,	HR PSOR - Croatian Business Council for Sustainable Development
<b>Cyprus</b>	CSR CYPRUS - Good Practices for CSR and Sustainability	<a href="#"><u>CSR Cyprus</u></a>	Sustainability	Cyprus Network for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

	Awards [in Greek: Βραβεία Καλών Πρακτικών Εταιρικής Κοινωνικής Ευθύνης και Βιωσιμότητας CSR Cyprus]  (1 prize)			Cyprus), in collaboration with public authority
<b>Czechia</b>	Czech SDGs Awards  (3 prizes)	<u>Czech SDGs Awards</u>	Innovation, Technology and Energy,  Circular Economy  Climate Change	Association of Social Responsibility, in cooperation with the Ministry
<b>Denmark</b>	SDG Tech Award Denmark  (4 prizes)	<u>SDG Tech Award Denmark</u>	Circular Economy, Sustainable Cities, Food and Agrotech, Energy	Sustainary
<b>France</b>	Prix enterprises and environment  (2 prizes)	<u>Prix enterprises &amp; environment</u>	Circular economy, Biodiversity and enterprises	Ministry of Ecological Transition, in collaboration with BPI France, CPME et Actu environnement.
<b>Germany</b>	German Ecodesign Award  (3 prizes)	<u>German Ecodesign Award</u>	Product, Service, Concept	Federal Ministry for the Environment, the German Environment Agency , the International Design Center Berlin.
<b>Germany</b>	German Sustainability Award  (3 prizes)	<u>DNP</u>	Design, Enterprise, Next Economy Award	Panel of private companies, and other partners
<b>Germany</b>	Deutscher Umweltpreis (German Environmental Award)  (1 prize)	<u>German Environment Prize</u>	Sustainability	German Environmental Foundation (DBU)
<b>Greece</b>	Bravo Sustainability Award  (1 prize)	<u>Bravo</u>	Environment	QualityNet Foundation

<b>Greece</b>	Environmental Awards (2 prizes)	<u><i>Environmental Awards</i></u>	Resource sustainability, sustainable activities	Boussias communication, IEA, academia
<b>Ireland</b>	Sustainability Business Impact Award (2 prizes)	<u><i>Sustainable Business Impact Award</i></u>	-Small and Medium sized Business - Exemplary Energy Performance;  Energy in Buildings;	Chambers of Commerce of Ireland
<b>Ireland</b>	Green Awards - Green Business and Sustainability (2 prizes)	<u><i>Green Awards - Green Business and Sustainability</i></u>	Green Medium Sized Organisation of the Year Green Small Organisation of the Year	Sponsored by private companies and public institutions
<b>Ireland</b>	Sustainable Energy Award (2 prizes)	<u><i>Sustainable Energy Awards</i></u>	Renewable energy Innovative Deployment of Renewable Energy	Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland
<b>Ireland</b>	SFA National Small Business Award (1 prize)	<u><i>SFA Small Business Award</i></u>	Sustainability	Small Firms Association (SFA)
<b>Ireland</b>	National Enterprise Awards (1 prize)	<u><i>National Enterprise Awards</i></u>	Sustainability	Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment - Irish Government
<b>Italy</b>	Premio Sviluppo Sostenibile (2 prizes)	<u><i>premiosvilupposostenibile</i></u>	Circular economy Renewable energy	Fondazione Sviluppo Sostenibile.
<b>Italy</b>	Premio Impresa Ambiente (5 prizes)	<u><i>Premio Impresa Ambiente IX edizione per imprese sostenibili</i></u>	Better management for sustainable development Best product or service for sustainable development Best process/technology for sustainable development Better international cooperation for	Chamber of Commerce (Venice), together with UnionCamere and the Ministry of Ecological Transition



			sustainable development Best entrepreneurial contribution to biodiversity	
<b>Italy</b>	Premio all'Innovazione Amica dell'Ambiente  (6 prizes)	<u><i>Premio all'Innovazione Amica dell'Ambiente 2021 • Legambiente .</i></u>	Agriculture, sustainable mobility, digital green, circular economy, ecodesign, energetic transition	Legambiente
<b>Latvia</b>	Baltic Sustainability Award  (3 prizes)	<u><i>Baltic Sustainability Award</i></u>	Impact, Innovation and Change-maker (all in relation to sustainability)	Hosted by Helve (private), with different partners
<b>Latvia</b>	Sustainable Building Contest  (2 prizes)	<u><i>Sustainable Building Contest</i></u>	Sustainability of buildings and energy efficiency	Ministry of Economics, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development and the "Būvinženieris" magazine
<b>Lithuania</b>	National Responsible Business Award  (1 prize)	<u><i>National Responsible Business Award</i></u>	Environmentally-Friendly Company of the Year	Ministry of Social Security and Labour
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Environment Awards by FEDIL  (3 prizes)	<u><i>Environment Awards</i></u>	Clean technologies, Green products, Environmental management	FEDIL
<b>Malta</b>	Smart and Sustainable Business Award  (1 prize)	<u><i>Sustainable Enterprise Award</i></u>	Environmental sustainability	Ministry of the Economy
<b>Netherlands</b>	EZK Energy Award  (2 prizes)	<u><i>EZK Energy Award</i></u>	Energy saving, sustainable energy generation and/or the use of renewable heat	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate (EZK)
<b>Netherlands</b>	Dutch Sustainable Building Award  (3 prizes)	<u><i>Sustainable Building Award</i></u>	Most sustainable project Most sustainable organisation Sustainable Building	Sustainable Building Awards Foundation, in collaboration with abcnova, W/E advisors,

			Award Audience Award	FSC Nederland and Duurzaam Gebouwd.
<b>Netherlands</b>	Koning Willem I Award (1 prize)	<u>Koning Willem I Award</u>	Sustainable entrepreneurship	King Willem I Foundation
<b>Portugal</b>	Premio Nacional de Sustentabilidade (3 prizes)	<u>Premio Nacional de Sustentabilidade</u>	Environmental: Preservation of Natural Capital, Decarbonisation, Circular Economy.	Negocios, Deloitte and Government
<b>Romania</b>	Romania Green Building Council Award (4 prizes)	<u>Romania Green Building Council Award</u>	Green Project of the Year - Small Sustainable Company of the Year Green Product Innovation of the Year Green Service Provider of the Year	Romania Green Building Council
<b>Slovakia</b>	Via Bona Slovakia (2 prizes)	<u>Via Bona Slovakia</u>	Responsible Small/Medium Company Green Company	Pontis Foundation
<b>Spain</b>	Premio Europeos de Medio Ambiente a la Empresa (5 prizes)	<u>Premios Europeos de Medio Ambiente a la Empresa</u>	Management Products and services Process International business cooperation Company and biodiversity	Fundacion Biodiversidad
<b>Sweden</b>	Nordic Council Environment Prize (1 prize)	<u>Environment Prize</u>	Different theme each year (most recent: sustainable food system)	Nordic Council of Ministers and the Nordic Council