



FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

BIO enables companies to grow and prosper, to generate jobs and build expertise. In order to accomplish this, clients not only need tailor-made investments but also the skills and know-how to increase their business performance and improve sustainable business development practices at all levels.

Through grants from the Business Development Support Fund, BIO co-finances Technical Assistance (TA) and Feasibility Studies (FS).

INSTRUMENTS

Technical assistance

Improving business performance, skills and standards are important to ensure the success of a project or company. BIO co-finances TA to support its clients in strengthening their competencies and business model to improve their performances and development impact. TA applications are open to existing clients only.

Feasibility study

The FS analyses the technical viability and profitability of an investment project and is indispensable prior to creating or further developing a company. The study can include technical, environmental and social, market or financial aspects. FS applications are open to existing and prospective clients. Example: market study for the geographical expansion of a microfinance institution's activities.

EXAMPLES OF TA PROJECTS

- Diagnosis of digital needs and challenges and digital product development;
- Study on green finance opportunities in the market
- Preparation for Smart Campaign certification
- Improve institutional and managerial capacity in treasury and financial management by strategic review and training
- Support to professional network organisation to launch sector-wide initiative
- Set-up of Business training centre for SME clients of bank
- Upscaling business models, Environmental & Social management systems or corporate governance structures



CRITERIA

Successful applications meet a number of criteria. BIO evaluates the project's development impact, expected outcome, coherence of the work programme, skills of the expert and the budget and planning. Projects are to be implemented by external qualified consultants.

Specifically for FS applications, BIO will assess the sponsor's or promotor's quality, experience and track record. All proposed projects have to be in line with BIO's investment strategy and country eligibility criteria.

AMOUNTS

For TA projects and investment support, the maximum amount is €350,000. Both the budget and the co-financing rate should be proportional to the financial capacity of the company and the development impact of the project.

For FS projects, the subsidy may account for up to 50% of the total cost with a maximum of €100,000 per client.

ELIGIBLE COSTS

Services are carried out by external, independent and qualified experts who are selected through a transparent process and are approved by BIO. Projects in progress and costs incurred are not eligible for BIO co-financing.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Ask our team for the application form, fill it out and send it to supportfund@bio-invest.be. The Business Development Support team will review your application and can support you in further structuring your project.

EXAMPLE : ANNAPURNA MICROFINANCE

FACTS & FIGURES

<i>Sector</i>	Financial Institution
<i>Subsector</i>	Microfinance institution
<i>Country & Region</i>	India, Asia
<i>Instruments</i>	Technical Assistance
<i>Amount</i>	€ 51,500



PROJECT

Annapurna is a successful Microfinance institution operating in six states of India. Annapurna's goal is to serve poor households by strengthening their entrepreneurial skills. BIO is shareholder since 2014 and approved a EUR 2.5million loan in 2015.

As a growing organization, Annapurna wanted to build capacity in the organization and improve the social performance and efficiency. BIO approved a Technical Assistance project of EUR 51,500 which entailed:

- Preparation for Social Rating & Client Protection Certification
- Developing Branch Audit Tools
- Implementation of Employee Tracking App
- Development of 5 year Strategic Business Plan
- Employee training, development and retention program