Leveraging European Funds through a National-Level Long-Term Institutional Investor

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THE FoF COMBINES ESIF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS IN BULGARIA OVER THE 2014-2020 PERIOD
The financial instruments provide a sustainable approach to utilizing the public funds and re-investing (Why?)

**Overcoming Market Inefficiencies**

FI provide financing to **target groups** of final recipients that have limited access to financing from the private sector.

FI are **tailored to the needs** and requirements of the target final recipients and offer, in general, **more favourable terms** (pricing, maturity and/or collateral requirements).

**Leverage Effect**

In addition to the resources from the OPs, FIs mobilise **additional private financing** which increases the total amount of the support available to the final recipients.

**Revolving Funds**

Resources paid back by the financed projects, and the potential other revenue generated from them, can be **reused** to provide support to other eligible final recipients and projects.

**Fiscal Discipline**

The resources made available via the instruments require that the final recipients **pay them back**, which leads to a more efficient use of public resources compared to grant support.

**Expertise**

Final recipients can benefit from the expertise of the financial intermediaries and other private sector partners in structuring economically viable projects.
The financial instruments provide a sustainable approach to utilizing the public funds and re-investing (What?)
With the expansion of the scope and the significant increase in the volume of funds earmarked for financial instruments for the 2014-2020 programming period, which is expected to continue as a trend during the next programming period 2021-2027, the complexity from the viewpoint of European citizens, businesses and the regions is growing and could pose a challenge. At the same time, the European Commission and the Member States have committed to ensure simplification, flexibility and reduction of the administrative burden.

In order to facilitate the process of seeking forms of finance using financial instruments supported by ESI Funds and other EU instruments, programmes with public funds at national and EU level applicable in Bulgaria, and other opportunities for European project support, within the Fund of Funds is set up the Project Information and Financing. It is established on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Bulgaria and the European Investment Bank (EIB) and functions as a single point of access to information.

The experts respond to a wide range of enquiries about project ideas, proposals and investment plans at various stages of development or readiness by providing opinions and advice on financing opportunities, including blending, concerning the public and the private sector. It is also possible to obtain additional support, assistance and orientation in terms of the relevant national and European institutions that have competence in terms of the implementation of a given project or its financing.

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