

Investment Climate Reform Facility

The ICR Facility supports public and private stakeholders in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to improve their investment climate and business environment. In a conducive, sustainable and inclusive business environment, local and international businesses are enabled to increase their investments, create jobs and contribute to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Funding	11,625 M€, provided by the European Union (EU), the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), together with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the British Council
Framework	EU External Investment Plan (Third Pillar Investment Climate)
Implementation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), British Council (BC), Expertise France (EF), Stichting Nederlandse Ontwikkelingsorganisatie (Netherlands Development Organisation, SNV)
Period	December 2019 – August 2022 (requests are received on an ongoing basis)



1. Technical Assistance for Business Environment and Investment Climate Improvement

The ICR Facility offers technical assistance for business environment and investment climate improvement initiatives. It supports targeted interventions through local or international experts that can be deployed for up to 90 expert days over the course of a year. Eligible requests must be part of a wider strategy or reform process.

What are the areas for Technical Assistance offered?

■ Business Environment Reform

Identification, design, implementation and evaluation of business environment reforms in areas such as business registration and licensing, investment policy, and tax administration, among others;

■ Business Environment for Sustainability

Promotion of sustainability in the business environment through innovative approaches such as social entrepreneurship, climate-smart investment, inclusive businesses or gender-specific reforms, among others;

■ Public-Private Dialogue (PPD)

Strengthening the PPD processes and its key stakeholders for more impactful and sustainable development policies.

Who can hand in requests for Technical Assistance?

EU Delegations, government agencies, regional organisations, national or local business associations, chambers of commerce, cooperatives, professional associations, private institutions with a public mandate, public private dialog platforms, local development finance institutions (DFI), financial services providers, trade unions in members of the OACPS.

How to submit a request

Please check the eligibility criteria and fill in the online request form (contact: info@icr-facility.eu). Requests for technical assistance must aim at improving the business and investment climate in a member or sub-region of the OACPS. It must be part of a wider strategy, reform process, or PPD mechanism.



2. Strengthening national and sub-regional development financial institutions

Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) play a crucial role in improving the business and investment climate in their respective region. Besides their role as direct financiers of under-served markets and beneficiary groups, they act as catalysts to leverage additional SDG-related investments. The ICR Facility supports six national or sub-regional development finance institutions (DFIs) with tailor-made technical assistance and capacity building. Support can be provided in three areas:

- **Capacity building in developing and delivering specific products**

Such as green bonds, funds-of-funds, guarantees, or trade finance, among others;

- **Using blended finance structures and building of investment pipelines**

- **Strengthening institutional structures**

such as risk frameworks, monitoring, evaluation, ESG standards, reporting and governance, among others.

The ICR Facility further supports a greater number of DFIs through the dissemination of good practices and lessons learned, especially in areas of common interest like climate finance. It promotes dialogue and knowledge sharing between regional and national institutions and between geographical areas.



3. Compile and mainstream lessons learned and good practices

Through the activities and lessons learned in Component 1 and Component 2 and beyond. The ICR Facility supports communication among peers who are active in business environment and investment climate reform. Public and private actors will have innovative tools at hand to create a more conducive, sustainable and inclusive business environment. This includes:

- **Developing, compiling and sharing knowledge products**

like policy briefs or tools for policy-makers and practitioners;

- **Promoting the debate via interactive communication**

like blog posts, social media, and webinars;

- **Enabling peer-to-peer learning**

by sharing knowledge, providing networking opportunities and giving advice on innovative instruments.