

FEMIP:

Financing in Algeria, Egypt, Gaza/West Bank, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey

Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership • Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership



Technical assistance in the Mediterranean partner countries

The technical assistance provided by FEMIP is centred on two funds:

- (1) The **Support Fund** utilises non-repayable aid granted by the European Commission in support of the EIB's investment activities in the southern Mediterranean countries. The Fund assists promoters during different stages of the project cycle such as project identification, preparation and implementation.
- (2) The "technical assistance" window of the **FEMIP Trust Fund**, to which the EU Member States and the European Commission are contributors, is used for activities upstream of projects such as support for institutional and legislative reform, sector development strategies and training.

The objectives of the Technical Assistance Funds are as follows:

- to help the FEMIP partner countries and private promoters to better prepare, manage and supervise their investment projects;
- to improve the quality and development impact of investment;
- to strengthen the management capacities of local partners in the medium and long term.

There are various **forms of technical assistance**. These generally involve:

- studies or targeted activities upstream of lending operations in the areas of legisla-

FEMIP

Since October 2002, the European Investment Bank (EIB)'s operations in the Mediterranean partner countries¹ have been brought together under the Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP).

FEMIP represents a milestone in the financial partnership between the European Union and its Mediterranean neighbours, which goes back more than thirty years and was intensified in the 1990s to underpin the Barcelona Process. In line with the Wider Europe-Neighbourhood Policy, FEMIP aims to help the Mediterranean partner countries meet the challenges of economic and social modernisation and regional integration, particularly in the run-up to the creation of a customs union with the European Union by 2010.

Against this backdrop, FEMIP gives priority to financing private sector ventures, whether local initiatives or foreign direct investment. In order to create an enabling environment for the development of private enterprise, FEMIP also supports infrastructure projects, investment in human capital and schemes specifically targeting environmental protection.

To this end, FEMIP operations primarily involve three types of product: loans, investment capital (equity and quasi-equity) and technical assistance grants.

FEMIP also endeavours to promote greater dialogue with all those involved in the Euro-Mediterranean financial partnership, both on the institutional front and with the representatives of the private sector and civil society.

¹ Algeria, Egypt, Gaza/West Bank, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.

FEMIP – making the Euro-Mediterranean partnership more effective through technical assistance

ISBN 92-861-0389-1

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tive, regulatory and institutional reform, privatisation aimed at strengthening the private sector, the award of concessions and training;

- pre-feasibility or feasibility studies for investment projects relating to the private sector, water and wastewater, the environment, transport and communications, education and health;
- missions to assess the projects being financed;
- Project Management Units (PMUs) at the implementation stage, to avoid common problems such as delays and cost overruns.

Who is eligible for technical assistance?

The beneficiaries of technical assistance are the governments of the southern Mediterranean countries, public services in the fields of infrastructure, water, energy, etc., operators in the financial sector and private promoters.

Tendering procedures

All technical assistance operations are subject to a tendering procedure. Participation in the tender is open to all natural and legal persons in the Member States of the European Union and the southern Mediterranean countries. Interested consultancies are invited to forward their details to the FEMIP Technical Assistance Unit. The technical assistance operations are procured according to the procedures set out in the "Practical Guide to contract procedures financed from the general budget of the European Communities in the context of external actions". The thresholds for tendering are the following:

- for technical assistance operations costing less than EUR 200 000, the EIB either operates under the conditions of the framework contract of the EuropeAid Cooperation Office of the European Commission or uses the competitive negotiated procedure;
- all contracts worth EUR 200 000 or more are awarded by restricted tender procedure following international publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Current portfolio

In 2004 and 2005, some forty technical assistance operations for an overall value of EUR 40 million have been contracted. Approximately 60% of these funds were allocated to the infrastructure, water and wastewater sectors, reflecting to a large extent the Bank's traditional areas of activity in the region. Private sector support, mainly directed at strengthening the lending capacities of intermediary banks for global loan operations and setting up new investment funds, absorbed 40% of the available resources.



Contacting FEMIP:

Operational contacts:

Jean-Christophe Laloux
Head of Division, Special Operations

☎ (+352) 43 79 67 79 📠 (+352) 43 79 68 97
✉ j.laloux@eib.org

Stefan Kerpen
Head of Technical Assistance Unit

☎ (+352) 43 79 67 56 📠 (+352) 43 79 68 97
✉ s.kerpen@eib.org

General information and press contacts:

Helen Kavvadia
☎ (+352) 43 79 31 34 📠 (+352) 43 79 31 88
✉ h.kavvadia@eib.org

European Investment Bank

100, boulevard Konrad Adenauer
L-2950 Luxembourg
☎ (+352) 43 79 1 📠 (+352) 43 77 04

www.eib.org/femip – ✉ info@eib.org

FEMIP's Headquarters

4, rue Lou-Hemmer
L-1748 Findel

External offices in the Mediterranean partner countries:

Egypt:

6, Boulos Hanna Street
Dokki, 12311 Giza
☎ (+20-2) 336 65 83 📠 (+20-2) 336 65 84

Morocco:

Riad Business Center, immeuble S3, Aile sud, 4^e étage
Boulevard Er-Riad
Rabat
☎ (+212) 37 56 54 60 📠 (+212) 37 56 53 93

Tunisia:

70, avenue Mohamed V
TN-1002 Tunis
☎ (+216) 71 28 02 22 📠 (+216) 71 28 09 98

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