

Identifying the Relevant Funding Programme

The most important thing to keep in mind is that **projects should never be conceived merely on a specific funding opportunity**. On the contrary, a project must fall with the strategy of an organisation, whilst also corresponding, at the same time, to the objectives specified by that specific funding programme.

Selecting the programme

EU regulations state very clearly that **one cannot apply for several programmes at the same time for the same project**. One could divide the project into smaller parts and apply for funding for each separate project. However, this would require filling out several applications in parallel, which may complicate the process.

By defining **detailed objectives and forming a solid partnership**, a project has a very good probability of being eligible to acquire EU funding. When selecting a specific programme it is also important to **clearly determine the target group of the project**. Administrative modalities, such as **co-financing rates, procedural constraints and timetables** could also influence the final choice.

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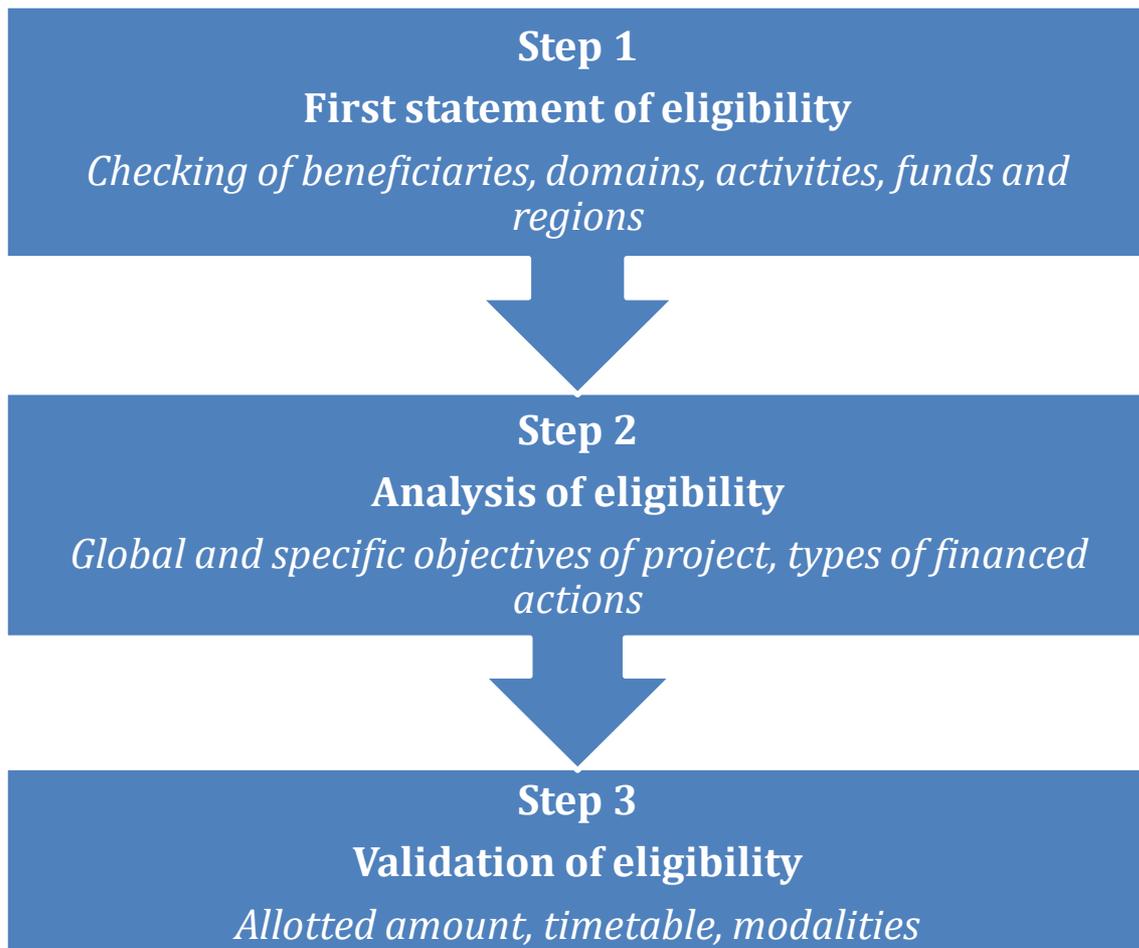
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Eligibility

In order to identify the correct financing programme, the client's projects' complete eligibility must be checked with the criteria of the funding programme. A three-stage assessment process is here recommended:



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Step 1 – Statement of Eligibility

It is important to first check the **general details of the programme** – the beneficiaries supported, the areas of funding, the regions assisted and the general funding budgets should all be looked at before considering whether to apply for EU funding.

Step 2 – Analysis of Eligibility

The second step involves a deeper analysis of the actions that the project seeks to achieve. These are then checked against the **programme's priorities and the EU objectives**, which can be found in working programmes such as White Papers and action plans.

Step 3 – Validation of Eligibility

Finally, it must be ensured that the project is **feasible in both financial and time-availability terms**. The deadlines given and the procedural timetable need to be taken into account. One must generally plan **one full year between the conception of a project and its operational launch**.

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