



GREEN ASSIST

Frequently Asked Questions

(Updated on 14 April 2023)

1. Where does an investment project need to be located geographically in order to be eligible to receive support from GREEN ASSIST?

GREEN ASSIST only provides support to projects for which the investments are located in the EU-27 countries or in third countries associated to the LIFE programme (i.e. currently Ukraine, Moldova and Iceland,) and that are managed by a project coordinator established in one of those countries. The entity designated in the request as the project coordinator must be responsible for the implementation of the project and be directly involved in the technical implementation of the project. The coordinator shall be the single point of contact.

2. Can a project that would not meet all “Do No Significant Harm” (DNSH) criteria receive advisory services under GREEN ASSIST?

Any projects that need advisory services to substantially improve their environmental performance can receive support from GREEN ASSIST, even if not all Do No Significant Harm criteria would be met.

3. We are a municipality implementing a new system with waste collection and utilisation, a study that was created with EU funding. It needs to be updated with new requirements. Can we apply to make it running and ready?

This is an interesting question: the position in principle would be yes, however, it will be important to demonstrate that there is no risk of double funding between the advisory provided and the additional top up that GREEN ASSIST would provide. The requestor will need to disclose all support obtained under other EU programmes. In addition, the request will need to demonstrate that the GREEN ASSIST will finally make the difference (and is not a stepping-stone towards other EU support).

4. My company developed a new composite material for windowsills or kitchen worktops and it is much more environmentally friendly than current composites. We still need to run some tests and certification, or IPR – can we get some advice on the finalisation of the product?

The position is that GREEN ASSIST should not provide advisory services in relation to finalization of products, certification or Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). The former is too technical, involving liability issues and the requestor should have this capacity. The latter is too legal.



5. Is it possible for NGOs to get advisory support on an action plan (like actions to implement the Birds Directive)?

GREEN ASSIST is not meant to provide advisory for adapting to EU regulations or Directives. Additionally, the requestor needs to demonstrate a concrete link to a project or to a potential investment.

6. Can I get financial support (grant or guarantee) for my Project from GREEN ASSIST?

No, GREEN ASSIST only provides support in the form of advisory.

7. Can I apply for GREEN ASSIST support to prepare an application for Grant or other financial instrument?

No. Certain ancillary element of the advisory services may be used in the context of an application for grant, but the advisory services will always be targeted to improve the readiness and the environmental performance of projects, regardless of their eligibility to a call for grant.

8. Is this initiative beneficial when applying for EU funding for projects?

No, however nothing prevents the requestor from mentioning the GREEN ASSIST support when applying for other funds, grants or financing instruments. It could also be beneficial to demonstrate the Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) of the project/investment. Applicants for grants for Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) should indicate, for example, if they benefited from GREEN ASSIST, but such a declaration would need to be operationalised in these Calls.

9. If the Expert is not good, can we ask for another one?

The best suited Expert is selected based on his/her expertise, thematic and geographical coverage, and the specific needs of the Beneficiary. The risk of him/her providing services not meeting required quality standards are expected to be low. However, if this is the case, a back-up Expert would be identified and assigned to the assignment.

10. Can you extend the service when it is needed or you need to reapply?

Amendments, although possible, should be reserved to only unforeseen situations. This is why the scope of the assignment must be defined as precisely as possible in the Advisory Assignment Fiche, also anticipating on future needs, for example by planning all interfaces requiring the presence of the experts. Amendments that are clearly beyond the scope of the original assignment or refer to a different project would be rejected. In such a case, the extension of service would remain possible, but would require a new application (also demonstrating the rationale).

11. Can you apply several times?

Yes, under same caveat as above.



12. We already have a good Expert that could help our project but we don't have sufficient funding. Can we ask just for the support to buy the service from our Expert or it is only from your pool of Experts?

GREEN ASSIST needs to operate in a transparent manner. Therefore, request for GREEN ASSIST's advisory service does not imply that a given Expert will be appointed. Nevertheless, any "good" expert may enrol in the Roster of Experts. Then, as long as there is sufficient evidence that the opinion of a given Expert will be independent and unbiased, such an expert may indeed be assigned to a given assignment. In any event, the matching decision will be made by the Contractor on the objective criteria and tools, therefore there should be no certainty that a given Expert known to the Beneficiary is proposed.

13. If I send a request via the InvestEU advisory Hub, can I indicate that I want to use Green Assist? I think there are also other advisory services available.

Based upon the nature of the request, the Wizard accessible from InvestEU Central Entry Point may guide you to several advisory Initiatives, including (but not necessarily) GREEN ASSIST. In any case, even if GREEN ASSIST does not appear you may indicate such a preference. Such preference may indeed be used in case of reallocation by the InvestEU Management Information System (MIS). If you absolutely want to designate GREEN ASSIST, please liaise directly with our Team, through the [GREEN ASSIST functional mailbox](#). In either case, no certainty can be given with regard to acceptance or allocation of your request.

14. Concerning the request via InvestEU it seems that only very basic data is required. If selected what happens next? Do I need to have already some documents?

Yes, because the information to be provided in the Wizard is limited, you will be contacted by the Contractor with clarification questions to provide additional information in writing to verify the eligibility of the request. However, the final details and verification will be done mostly bilaterally with the Contractor to reduce administrative burden.

15. Once the advisory is provided are there obligations to implement the project?

GREEN ASSIST recognises that even with targeted advisory services, some investment may not proceed to completion or may be blocked at some point. In any event, under the Beneficiary Charter, the Contractor will need to report on the long-term effect of the advisory provided, explaining to what degree it helped to make progress or why the project could not be implemented.

16. What is the size of project you require to get the advisory services?

At the moment, GREEN ASSIST would like to focus on investments with a total Capital Expenditure as from EUR 2,5 million. However, this target is preliminary and may be adjusted based on requests received, in order to maximize the impact of advisory services on generation of Investments, for example when bundling of projects below this threshold is contemplated.

**17. How big is the support?**

The support will depend on the nature of advisory required, e.g. the seniority of Expert required, and the duration of the support needed, as determined by the Contractor.

18. Will there be calls for the requests for various sectors?

GREEN ASSIST does not operate on call basis, but on a “demand basis”: therefore, no sectoral calls will be launched.

19. Who is the owner of the Deliverables?

The Beneficiary remains the owner of all intellectual property and is owner of the deliverables.

20. What if we consider that the project contains confidential aspects? Are we obliged to share such information with the expert?

No. The Beneficiary should however, at the stage of finalizing the Assignment Fiche, indicate which information will not be shared, for confidentiality reason, and justify why this confidential information is not necessary to the expert to carry out its assignment.

21. What is the guarantee of the Expert excellence?

There is no such guarantee, but the system will always prompt you to signal quality issues. Both the Expert and the Beneficiary will be solicited to fill a satisfaction questionnaire, therefore ensuring some natural quality checks.

22. If I need to use the Expert advisory services to obtain financing, is there any endorsement of Expert by Commission?

Neither the Commission, CINEA nor the Contractor will endorse the position of the Expert, this way also ensuring independence and neutrality of the expert. Nevertheless, the selection of experts in the Roster will be objectively and independently conducted on the basis of their experience in the relevant sectors and competencies. This selection, combine with independent quality control of the deliverables, will contribute to ensuring credibility toward all stakeholders.

23. How many days of support can I request for my Project from GREEN ASSIST?

Typically, but there is no fixed limits, an assignment would last in between 3 to 6 Months, including up to 20 to 80 days of workdays paid to the expert(s)

24. How fast can I get an answer from the time of sending my request and the decision on accepting?

When GREEN ASSIST will be running at cruise speed, we expect that you will get a first contact by the Contractor within a couple of weeks after submitting a request (assuming the requestor has



selected GREEN ASSIST when prompted by the Wizard) in order to complete the request. Then count another one to two weeks (for a request of normal complexity), for acceptance. The process aims at moving from receipt of complete application to the launch of advisory services within four to five weeks.

25. Can I count on the Expert's support to accompany my discussions with key projects stakeholders (banks, funds, clients) after the agreed deliverables have been finalized and accepted on our side (as Beneficiary)?

This would be possible as long as this follow-up support has been documented in the Advisory Assignment Fiche and agreed upon upfront as part of the work programme, it should also be evidenced with proper minutes of these discussions (each constituting a specific "deliverable" to be agreed by the concerned stakeholder).

26. Can I directly apply to GREEN ASSIST?

By default, you should apply on the Central Entry Point of InvestEU. However, even if your project and request tick the boxes relevant for GREEN ASSIST, your request may also be directed to other advisory partners. You may nevertheless increase the probability that your request is directed to GREEN by specifically mentioning Green Assist in the open box of the wizard.