

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE M4EG SECRETARIAT'S COLLABORATION WITH SIGNATORIES

The aim of the Mayors for Economic Growth (M4EG) Facility (2021-2024) is, through close collaboration with the willing local administrations, to grow and develop local economic growth and sustainable development champions and share their experience across the region.

The M4EG Facility is designed for the most committed members who allocate time and effort to actively engage in exploring and implementing new interventions to address complex issues faced within their municipality and beyond. Members are expected to deliver on their expressed intent as per the Membership Form and show good progress on initiatives engaged in under the scope of the M4EG.

The M4EG Facility is open to all the local administrations in Eastern Partnership countries, and the M4EG Secretariat, housed by UNDP, does not apply any eligibility criteria for the willing signatories. However, in the view of a very large number of signatories and very different levels of existing commitment, capacity and economic growth potential, the European Commission and the M4EG Secretariat have agreed on minimal criteria and standards to be taken into consideration while deciding on the type of support that can be offered to the signatories, with the limited resources in mind.

By signing the Membership Form signatories take upon themselves the obligations spelled out therein, which they have to fulfill in order to stay an M4EG member regardless of the type and intensity of the support they received under the M4EG. At the same time, the M4EG Secretariat works to ensure that the basic services universally available to all the signatories provide sufficient information and guidance for the Members to succeed in delivering on their intentions and gain further access to learning and resources under the M4EG.

To stay a M4EG Member, a signatory must comply with the following requirements:

1. Submit the **new generation Local Economic Development Plan**, or its equivalent, of good quality and in accordance with the revised M4EG Methodology (M4EG Concept and Guidelines for LED Plans development or similar guidance) by the established deadline (generally within 12 months of the available new LEDP methodology, but in some cases the deadline could be extended by the Secretariat, including for signatories undertaking the *Portfolio Journey*). The signatories who failed to do that, will lose the Membership status.
2. Provide **feedback and results reporting** in writing (brief template will be provided in national language) on the progress every 6 months. With two reporting deadlines missed, the signatories will lose the Membership status.



SUPPORT AND SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE M4EG MEMBERS

As in the first phase, the M4EG will collaborate closely with the local authorities by taking a two-pronged approach:

BROAD: Strengthening the capacities of local governments in designing for and financing local development, and strengthening the learning network (exchange of practices, learning and intelligence) through engaging the existing members of the M4EG network of about 400 local authorities.

DEEP: Creating demonstrative interventions in the Eastern Partnership region in a minimum of 12 secondary cities/municipalities/local authorities through the development of portfolio briefs (ready for activation) and supporting local authorities in attracting diverse investment for local development.

The M4EG aims to have a geographical balance among countries and within countries, i.e. between capital cities and regions. The ambition of this phase is to extend the existing M4EG network across geographic context and population size of participating municipalities.

The *broad* components provide the universal offer available to all signatories of the M4EG. The *deep* components are made available to committed members that are in a position to engage more substantially, and who are likely to be role models and success cases of the M4EG. Notwithstanding, and regardless of level of engagement, the Secretariat intends to help strengthen the M4EG network and learning across its ecosystem by showcasing a wide range of solutions and processes for positive transformative change.

The below table presents a short overview of the types of support and the corresponding eligibility criteria for the M4EG members.

These recommended criteria are of a generic advisory nature, which is not context specific. In difficult/uncertain situations the eligibility of a signatory for certain types of support will be decided by the M4EG Secretariat on a case-by-case basis. The table below could be updated by the Secretariat in the future, should the circumstances change, and as more details about the Project activities become available.

	SERVICES	AVAILABLE TO	REQUIREMENTS
BROAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Featuring the Signatory Individual File on the updated M4EG website and in the media; providing visibility to reach interested donors, partners and potential investors. Access to learning opportunities (face-to-face and online) as part of the new Urban Learning Center (e.g. innovative methods on leadership, sensemaking, strategic planning and foresight). Access to the online module for the development of an LEDP and related resources, and targeted capacity development in LEDP design on a case-by-case basis. Opportunity to access funding schemes through participation in the EU Call for Proposal (2021), the Portfolio Journey Call for Proposals, and the Annual Innovation Call for Proposals. Opportunity to participate in the Annual M4EG Forum. Access to information and opportunities deriving from strategic agreements of the M4EG Secretariat with major international financing institutions, donors, investors, etc. Eligibility for other EU funding opportunities within M4EG that may arise in the future. 	All M4EG Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Membership Form</i> signed and submitted. The information for <i>the Signatory Personal File</i> provided.
DEEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted capacity development in LEDP development (face-to-face training modules on LEDP development) on a case-by-case basis. Rolling out the Portfolio Journey (design and implementing activities) for a minimum of 12 members (iterative learning process for 2-3 years). This would entail targeted capacity development and technical support as needed, including ad hoc expert assistance for relevant matters. Regular sensemaking/learning workshops at the municipal level and regional learning with all local authorities that are a part of the portfolio approach and benefiting from the funding schemes/grants. Wide success stories dissemination. Opportunity to work as mentors to other members. Present and promote their territory and work at international platforms. Benefits deriving from strategic agreements of the M4EG Secretariat with major international financing institutions, donors, investors, etc. 	<p>M4EG Members with proved capacity and motivation, i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recipients of funding schemes; - Selected applicants through the Portfolio Journey Call for Interest; - Other high-potential committed members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate human resources are allocated, e.g. Economic Development Officer and others for trainings and other Project-related work and communications with the Secretariat; There are no significant perceived risks of the Member dropout within the next 2-3 years. Grant contract awarded, implementation started, regular reports submitted; The LEDP submitted on time, assessed and approved by the Secretariat. Implementation of the plan has been started, regular reports are submitted.