

The Decade Trust Fund – A Short Introduction

1. What is the Decade Trust Fund? The Decade Trust Fund (DTF) is a Trust Fund administered by the World Bank. It is common practice for the World Bank to manage multi-donor Trust Funds such as this one. The DTF is financed out of contributions from all Decade countries as well as interested international partner organizations. It was agreed at the November 2005 International Steering Committee (ISC) meeting in Bucharest that each of the Decade countries would contribute an initial amount of EUR 20,000 to the Trust Fund. The Open Society Institute has also contributed this amount. The World Bank manages the DTF at the request and on behalf of the Decade countries.

2. What will it finance? The DTF supports two principal types of activities (i) cross-country technical support, training and workshops in the context of refining and implementing the national Decade Action Plans and the cross-cutting issues of poverty, discrimination and gender, and (ii) monitoring and evaluation of Decade implementation across the Decade countries. Cross-country technical support is supposed to be benefiting all Decade countries. For example, if one Decade country proposed to hold a workshop on an issue on which it seeks technical assistance, such a workshop should be open for attendance by representatives from all countries. The DTF, therefore, is not aimed at financing individual country projects, but joint activities. The DTF finances short term consultant fees (such as experts invited for workshops), travel, and media and workshop costs in the Decade countries. Project funding will not be used to cover the costs of travel or other costs of participation in Trust Fund activities by World Bank staff.

3. How will projects be approved? The DTF is meant to be a flexible tool to finance joint activities of the ISC. Its approval process involves ISC members and is simple at the same time. Proposals are approved on a no-objection basis. Project proposals are received, identified and approved by a three person management panel which includes a World Bank representative and a representative each from the current and next-in-line holders of the Decade Presidency. In order to identify funding priorities in case several applications are received simultaneously, the panel will consult an advisory body made up of the entire ISC (including government delegates and representatives of Roma civil society) as well as those international partner organizations that have contributed to the DTF and seek feedback on short-listed proposals. A short-listing process weighs the quality of the proposal, relevance to the Decade goals, cross-country learning potential and inclusion of Roma in the generation and application of proposals: Each proposal will be ranked according to criteria (maximum 10 points score; the criteria for ranking and approving proposals are explained on the attachment to this note), and projects with more than 5 points will be short-listed. Prior to approval, all short-listed proposals will be shared virtually (by email or internet) for comments by the ISC within a given time frame. Not short-listed proposals will also be communicated. The management panel will take into consideration the advice and comments of the advisory committee, received within 10 working days, when approving proposals and may invite applicants to revise proposals in light of comments. The World Bank, as the agent of the ISC, will report to the Decade ISC at each meeting on the status of the Trust Fund, including an update on ongoing and planned activities.

4. Contact: For any questions please contact Anne Anglio, Tel: + 1 202 473 8556, aanglio@worldbank.org.

ANNEX: Criteria for approving proposals – a simple point system

- Relevance of proposal (3 points)
 - Link to Decade focus areas and cross-cutting issues
 - Relevance to implementation of action plan
- Quality of proposal (3 points)
 - Clarity of objective and adequateness of approach to meet objective
 - Feasibility of proposal given budget ceiling and given time frame
 - Contribution to learning
- Roma participation in preparation of proposal and implementation (2 points)
- Cross country relevance of proposal (2 points)