



Terms of Reference

Microfinance Advocacy Committee

2026-2028

1. Background & Purpose

The aim of the Microfinance Advocacy Committee is to gather a pool of EU experts from the microfinance sector (microfinance practitioners, Entrepreneurship Support Organisations and impact investors in microfinance) to:

- i. Support EU-level microfinance policy developments and implementation through provision of feedback, high impact collaboration with policy makers and implementing partners to ensure that microfinance remains visible and influential within EU social and economic priorities;
- ii. Build common positions on EU and national level initiatives, draft policy recommendations on topics related to the sector and its objective and contribute to the advocacy activities of the sector;
- iii. Alert the networks and the EU and national authorities of the challenges and difficulties faced by the sector;
- iv. Represent the sector in meetings with EU or national authorities, supervisors and policy makers;
- v. Provide technical expertise on the sector, its functioning and its state;
- vi. Enhance the visibility of microfinance sector in Europe.

2. Objectives

The committee's main objectives are to:

- coordinate advocacy efforts and initiatives on:
 - EU funding advocacy at EU and national levels
 - SEAP implementation on the level of EU and EU countries
 - Anti-poverty Strategy
 - EPSR
 - green & housing
 - European Code of Good Conduct
 - Ukraine related advocacy
 - legal and regulatory framework
 - cost and pricing.
- support EC-level policy development and implementation through feedback loops, high-impact collaborations, ensuring microfinance visibility within EU social and economic priorities
- promote visibility of microfinance and its relevance within EU policy discussions.



The Committee will focus on the topics mentioned above in order to:

- i. Strengthen the advocacy capacities of the sector by:
 - a. Providing expertise and information on the microfinance national sectors
 - b. Contributing to the agenda of the Committee
 - c. Contributing to common positions to support the sector and the advocacy strategies to be implemented with/by the Networks
- ii. Facilitate exchange between the sector and EU/national policymakers and enhance the visibility of the microfinance by:
 - a. Encouraging ongoing dialogues and collaboration to address emerging sector issues
 - b. Representing the need of the sector with evidences

3. Composition

The Advocacy Committee is tentatively planned to comprise 12 members, ensuring geographically diverse representation across EU Member States.

Only EU-based MFIs are eligible to apply for membership.

The selection process will not favour institutions based on their size — MFIs of all sizes are encouraged to apply.

4. Meetings and compensation for attending in-person

The advocacy Committee will meet four times a year with 2 online meetings and 2 hybrid meetings.

Travel and accommodation costs for in-person attendance at hybrid meetings will be covered up to 85% EC unit cost limits¹.

5. Duration

The mandate of the Advocacy Committee runs **until the end of 2028**.

7. Selection Process

Candidates must submit:

- A Curriculum Vitae
- The completed application form attached to the email

The selection will be carried out jointly by representatives of both Networks.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/procedures-guidelines-tenders/information-contractors-and-beneficiaries/calculate-unit-costs-eligible-travel-costs_en