

## Core Criteria

Criterion : Projects must	Evidence
<p>Contribute to one or more of the Programme objectives</p> <p>Demonstrate an additional and sustainable benefit to the socio-economic development of the area</p> <p>Correspond to one or more of the activities defined in the programme complement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check that the project clearly fits one of the four programme objectives</li> <li>• Check the overall project objective accords with one of the Programme Priorities</li> <li>• Check that the project description is compatible with one or more of the Measure level indicative actions</li> </ul>
<p>Quantify outputs and provide details of clear and attainable targets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects must report against Programme targets and not those they find easier or more acceptable</li> <li>• Check that the delivery of the project will contribute to the delivery of the Programme</li> </ul>
<p>Be eligible for Structural Funds assistance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check that the size of firms assisted is within the Regulations – SMEs ( fewer than 250 employees, annual turnover not exceeding EURO 40 million, or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EURO 27 million, and not more than 25% of the capital or voting rights is owned by an enterprise which is itself not an SME)</li> <li>• Remember statutory provision cannot be supported – housing, healthcare, under 16 education</li> <li>• Check that assistance supports productive investment and not personal services or services that will displace others.</li> </ul>
<p>Have a sound funding package in place, identifying the recipient of funds and the sources of match-funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check that the source of the match funding is clear and that documentary evidence is provided. In principle, offers are made to fully appraised projects in the order of their scores, with the highest-scoring projects funded first, until available funds are exhausted. Not all projects will have their match funding confirmed at application stage. <b>However, the approval of projects which have a confirmed financial package in</b></li> </ul>

	<p><b>place will not be delayed while other projects finalise their arrangements, even if this squeezes out higher scoring projects which are not ready to start.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-kind contributions must be auditable and accountable and confirming documentary evidence provided</li> </ul>
Not duplicate existing activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check the project is not duplicating existing provision</li> <li>• For business support projects look for evidence which demonstrates how the project is different including evidence of consultation and endorsement by the local Business Link</li> </ul>
Not substitute for existing or planned expenditure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project should be able to show that without support it is unlikely to start</li> <li>• Where activity has started (retrospection is possible if this is a first round project) convincing evidence should be presented of why project had to start in advance of programme offer.</li> </ul>