



EUROPEAN CODE OF GOOD CONDUCT FOR MICROCREDIT PROVISION

WHAT IS THE CODE?



The Code is a voluntary self-regulation tool developed for the microfinance sector in Europe, in close consultation with key stakeholders. It comprises a unified set of best practices and serves as a quality label, upholding high ethical and responsible lending practices.



WHO IS THE CODE FOR?

The Code is aimed mainly at microfinance institutions (MFIs) operating in Europe that provide loans of up to €25,000 to micro-entrepreneurs or self-employed people. The Code is also relevant for banks, customers, investors, and regulators.

Signing up to or endorsing (licensed banks and guarantee granting institution only) the Code is a pre-condition for accessing EU funding under the [EaSI Financial instruments](#) or Code training and evaluation services under [EaSI Technical Assistance](#).

HOW TO IMPLEMENT THE CODE?



Step 1 Sign-up

Send the completed [Sign-up Form](#) to empl-microfinance@ec.europa.eu

MFIs can request Code Training by emailing the Frankfurt School-led Consortium to easi.ta@fs.de



Step 2 Self-assessment

Fill in the [Self-Assessment Tool](#)

Register and share data on [EaSI-MicPro](#) to estimate your degree of compliance and areas to improve.



Step 3 Evaluation process

MFIs that want to be evaluated on their compliance with the Code should submit their self-assessment and progress report to the external evaluator [MFR](#) by email to easi.ta@mf-rating.com



Step 4 Decision on award

The Code Steering Group, chaired by the European Commission makes the final decision on certifying an institution.

Awarded MFIs must comply with at least 80% of the weighted total of all clauses and all the priority clauses.

WHO BENEFITS FROM THE CODE?

Microfinance institutions



1. Access to European Union funding for microfinance under the [EaSI Financial instruments](#);
2. Improved internal processes and operations;
3. Quality label for customers, investors and regulators.

The Code also benefits



Customers:
Guaranteed to be treated fairly



Investors:
Ensured in transparency and compliance



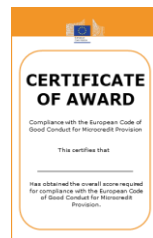
Regulators:
Secured in relevance of sound MFI operations



European Union:
Common best practices and ethical principles across MFIs

Awarded Institutions & Testimonials

The [full list of certified institutions](#), which successfully went through the evaluation process can be found on the official page for the European Code of Good Conduct for Microcredit Provision, on the European Commission's website.



"Today, we are one of the most dynamic and innovative players in Belgium in the field of professional microcredit. Our practices comply with the European Code of Good Conduct promoted by the European Commission for Microfinance Institutions in the EU."

CEO of an MFI, Belgium

"As a result of the Code certification, we are now ranked among the most trustworthy financial institutions ... which makes our staff very proud."

CEO of an MFI, Albania

Forms & links related to the Code:

Sign-up to the Code: EMPL-MICROFINANCE@ec.europa.eu
[Sign-up form and self assessment-tool](#)
[Register and share data on EaSI-MicPro](#)

EaSI Technical Assistance on the Code: easi.ta@fs.de
Ratings and Evaluations: easi.ta@mf-rating.com

Other related links:

[EaSI Programme](#)
[Call for Expression of interest for EaSI TA](#)
[EaSI Financial instruments](#)
[EaSI TA Helpdesk](#)



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