

# **General Eligibility Criteria**

The General Eligibility Criteria define the general characteristics, restrictions and special features that apply to lending for projects/clients under the loan programmes: Youth, Female and Start-Up Entrepreneurship; Private Sector Investment; Public Sector Investment; Special SME Segments Investment under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP); EU Projects; Working Capital; Pre-Export Finance; Financial Restructuring.

The General Eligibility Criteria apply to all other HBOR's loan programmes and products in all their parts as applicable, unless otherwise defined by an individual programme and/or product.

#### Contents

Gen	eral Eligibility Criteria1
1.	Borrowers
1.1	. Eligible Borrowers
	Private sector business entities
	Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises3
	Mid-caps
	Large business entities3
	Public sector entities3
1.2	. Special Target Groups
	Young entrepreneurs3
	Female entrepreneurs
	Start-up entrepreneurs4
	Market competitive business entities4
1.3	. Ineligible Borrowers and Restrictions4
	Entrepreneurs in difficulties4
	Business entities in which ownership interests are held by entities subject to the Act on Preventing Conflict of Interest and their family members4
	Exclusion criteria in accordance with the Reputational Risk Management Ordinance5
2.	Special Areas of the Republic of Croatia5
	Supported areas5
	Hill or mountain areas5
	The islands5
3.	Activities of Special Interest5
4.	Special Types of Investment6
	Green transition
	Digitalisation (digital transition)6
	Research, development and innovation - RDI6
	Investments aimed at rehabilitation from the consequences of earthquakes7

	Social infrastructure and/or investments aimed at reducing negative demographic trends
5.	Ineligible Activities7
6.	Promotional Interest Rates and Aid Regulations7
	Reference interest rate7
	General interest rate7
	Aid8
	Type of investment and aid8
6.1	. State Aid and Promotional Effect8
6.2	. Special Programmes in Terms of the Application of Aid Rules9
	EU projects9
	Public sector investments9
	Financial restructuring10
6.3	. Exemptions from Financing at Promotional Interest Rate10
7.	Others10
	Schedule 1 – Ineligible activities11

## 1. Borrowers

#### 1.1. Eligible Borrowers

Eligible beneficiaries of HBOR's loans or placements are (subject to other conditions defined in these General Eligibility Criteria, programmes and products of HBOR and/or other applicable documents of HBOR) **private sector business entities and public sector business entities**, where:

- The term "beneficiary" relates to a natural person or legal entity that is financed directly or in cooperation with a commercial bank or leasing company, including a principal in the case of guarantee issuance;
- The term "loan" or "placement" relates to all lending activities, both direct and indirect, including guarantee issuance, and all banking products.

#### Private sector business entities

Companies, crafts businesses, sole traders, family farms, cooperatives and institutions in private of majority private ownership classified in accordance with their size as follows:

#### Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises

Private sector business entities which employ fewer than 250 employees and which have an annual turnover below EUR 50 million and/or an annual balance sheet total below EUR 43 million according to the latest available annual financial statements, in accordance with the Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC of 6 May 2003 concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (OJ L 124, 20.5.2003) (hereinafter: Recommendation of the European Commission).

#### Mid-caps

Private sector business entities which employ from 250 to 2,999 employees according to the latest available annual financial statements and which in accordance with their size, ownership, employee number and other conditions do not enter the category of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises pursuant to the Recommendation of the European Commission.

#### Large business entities

Private sector business entities which employ 3,000 and more employees according to the latest available annual financial statements and which in accordance with their size, ownership, employee number and other conditions do not enter the category of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises pursuant to the Recommendation of the European Commission.

#### **Public sector entities**

Units of local or regional government (municipalities, cities and counties) and companies, institutions and agencies owned or majority owned by them and/or owned or majority owned by the Republic of Croatia.

#### 1.2. Special Target Groups

#### Young entrepreneurs

Business entities in which at least one or several young persons (in the age group up to 40 years at the time of applying for a loan) together have at least 50% of ownership.

#### Female entrepreneurs

Business entities in which at least one or several women together have more than 50% of ownership and are also managed by a woman. In the case of an enterprise that is not a micro or small enterprise, a woman or women together may have less than 50% of ownership, provided that at least one woman is in one of the key management positions related to finance and/or operational business and/or strategy.

#### Start-up entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurs who establish a business entity for the first time, or business entities in the sector of micro, small and medium-sized entrepreneurship that have been operating for less than 3 (three) years at the moment of submitting a loan application. Start-ups have not owned or jointly owned before and do not currently own or jointly own a stake of more than 30 percent in another business entity.

#### Market competitive business entities

Market competitiveness is assessed by applying and meeting all of the following criteria:

- (1) Operating income/revenue exceeds operating expenses/expenditures,
- (2) Current liquidity higher than 0.6 (short-term assets /short-term liabilities),
- (3) Long-term financial stability ratio lower than 1.2 (long-term assets against capital, reserves and long-term liabilities),
- (4) Reduced currency-induced credit risk (at least 5% of operating income/revenue generated in foreign or international markets or at least 5% of foreign tourist overnight stays in total overnight stays in the preceding business year).

As an exception, borrowers renting beds or offering accommodation services to guests may, alternatively, instead of the criteria referred to in indents 2) and 3), use the criterion of a 30% minimum share in capital, reserves and retained profits on the liabilities side of the balance sheet. If a borrower generates income/revenues of less than 5% of operating income/revenues in foreign or international markets and is a member of a group that generates more than 5% of operating income/revenues in foreign or international markets, as documented in the consolidated financial statements of the group, the criterion of reduced currency-induced credit risk will be considered fulfilled.

The documents for establishing the above criteria are the financial statements of entrepreneurs for the previous business year (balance sheet and profit or loss account, and for crafts businesses: income tax return, certified by competent persons) and for borrowers in the tourism industry: statistical data on tourist arrivals and overnight stays for the preceding year.

As an exception, for borrowers whose financial statements do not meet the criterion referred to in indent 4 (reduced currency-induced credit risk), if the borrowers can demonstrate indirect income/revenues of at least 5% of operating income/revenues in foreign or international markets through intermediaries by presenting invoices on delivered goods and by presenting a statement of intermediaries certified by a notary public under material and criminal liability certifying that the borrowers' finished goods have been delivered to the foreign or international market in unaltered form, the criterion of reduced currency-induced credit risk will be considered fulfilled.

#### 1.3. Ineligible Borrowers and Restrictions

#### **Entrepreneurs in difficulties**

Borrowers cannot be entities that belong to the category of companies in difficulties in accordance with the provisions of Article 2, paragraph 18 of the Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (OJ L 187, 26 June 2014, hereinafter: the Regulation: 651/2014), i.e. with the provisions of the regulation in force at the moment of loan or interest subsidy approval, except in the case referred to under 6.2 of these General Eligibility Criteria (Financial restructuring).

For more details, follow the link: https://www.hbor.hr/naslovnica/hbor/poduzetnici-u-teskocama/

# Business entities in which ownership interests are held by entities subject to the Act on Preventing Conflict of Interest and their family members

In accordance with the Act on Preventing Conflict of Interest (Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia, No. 143/2021) and all its subsequent amendments, there are restrictions in effect on lending to business entities in which ownership interests are held by entities subject to the Act on Preventing Conflict of Interest and their family members.

For more details, follow the link: <u>https://www.hbor.hr/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Ogranicenje-u-kreditiranju-drzavnih-duznosnika.pdf</u>

#### Exclusion criteria in accordance with the Reputational Risk Management Ordinance

In accordance with HBOR's Reputational Risk Management Ordinance, risk categories and exclusion criteria as well as their impact on the execution, continuation or termination of a business relationship with a client are determined.

For more details, follow the link: <u>https://www.hbor.hr/pravilnik-o-upravljanju-reputacijskim-rizikom-hbor-a-koji-proizlazi-iz-poslovnog-odnosa-s-klijentom/</u>

# 2. Special Areas of the Republic of Croatia

Special areas of the Republic of Croatia are economically underdeveloped areas (supported areas), the islands and hill/mountain areas in the Republic of Croatia as follows:

### Supported areas

Units of local government classified into groups I, II, III or IV in accordance with the Regional Development Act of the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia Nos. 147/2014, 123/2017, 118/2018) and the Decision on the Classification of Units of Local and Regional Government According to the Level of Development (Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia No. 132/2017) and all their amendments.

### Hill or mountain areas

Areas in accordance with the Act on Hill or Mountain Areas (Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia No. 118/2018) and the Decision on the Coverage and Classification of Local Government Units Acquiring the Status of Hill or Mountain Area (Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia No. 24/2019) and all their amendments.

#### The islands

In accordance with the Islands Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia Nos.116/2018, 73/2020, 70/2021) and all its amendments.

# 3. Activities of Special Interest

Investments in the activities of special interest are listed in the following table by sections, groups and/or classes of the National Classification of Activities (hereinafter: NKD).

Under the mentioned sections, groups and/or classes, activities listed as exemptions are the activities that are not activities of special interest and/or that are activities and purposes that are not eligible for financing.

Activities of special interest	Exemptions
01 – Crop and animal production	01.15 Growing of tobacco
from 01.11 to 01.50 except for 01.15	
03 – Fishing	
Processing industry (Section C)	11 – Manufacture of beverages from 11.01 to 11.06
all groups and classes except for the listed	12 – Manufacture of tobacco products
exemptions	18 – Printing and reproduction of recorded media only
	in case of loan applicants engaged in or being related
	in terms of ownership with business entities engaged
	in publishing of newspapers and other periodicals,
	radio and television programme activities and

	broadcasting, news agency activities and service activities of advertising and public relations agencies
62 – Computer programming, consultancy and related services	-

# 4. Special Types of Investment

### **Green transition**

Projects that, according to the EU taxonomy criteria and accompanying regulations (delegated acts), contribute significantly to the achievement of at least one of the following environmental objectives:

- Climate change mitigation;
- Climate change adaptation;
- Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources;
- Transition to a circular economy;
- Pollution prevention and control;
- Protection and restoration of biological diversity and ecosystems,
- and that at the same time satisfy the "do no significant harm" principle.

Green transition projects include, among others, investments such as green technologies, business models based on the circular economy, renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, etc.

#### **Digitalisation (digital transition)**

Development and/or introduction of digital technologies (for example, digitalisation of production, procurement and sales) in certain areas of business and their full integration and education of employees and users including the following investments:

- Digital infrastructure;
- Digital transformation of companies, research in the field of digital technologies;
- ICT (investments in information and communication technologies), digital marketing, digitalisation and automation of business processes, digital procurement, digitalisation of sales representatives, changes in all forms of businesses and processes in which employees of the organisation interact with its customers, and similar;
- Industry 4.0 production processes based on the latest technology and covered by devices for mutual autonomous communication; machines controlled by artificial intelligence that can independently exchange information; application of smart factory models in which robotic machines control and monitor physical processes; production system that can independently exchange information during the production process and knows at any time at what stage the output product is.

#### Research, development and innovation - RDI<sup>1</sup>

Projects based on research, development and innovation or investment in research, development and innovation in the field of products, processes, business organisation and marketing (customer relations) in a company. They include projects based on industrial and experimental research; products/services/processes and methodologies protected by intellectual property regulations but also other projects based on the application of a new or substantially modified product (goods or services), processes, new organisational methods, business practices or new marketing methods and their introduction into practical use, that is, the commercialisation or expansion of existing production/service capacities for RDI-based operations.

Investments in all activities can be included in the area of investment in research, development and innovation if they have the specified characteristics and if they are not excluded by these General Eligibility Criteria.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> RDI - Research, Development and Innovation

#### Investments aimed at rehabilitation from the consequences of earthquakes

Investments aimed at rehabilitation, elimination and/or reduction of the consequences of earthquakes.

#### Social infrastructure and/or investments aimed at reducing negative demographic trends

Projects of local government units or of companies that are majority owned by them or majority owned by the Republic of Croatia and projects of other applicants aimed at improving social, educational, health, communal infrastructure and transport connections in urban and rural areas. It is estimated that the implementation of the project contributes to increasing the standards of communal and social services in the local community and/or to reducing the negative demographic trends.

Investments in all activities are included in the area of investment in social Infrastructure and/or projects aimed at reducing negative demographic trends if they have the stated characteristics and if they are not excluded by these General Eligibility Criteria. The activities from the following NKD sections are automatically included if they are not excluded by these General Eligibility Criteria: 85 Education; 86 Human health activities; 87 Residential care activities; 88 Social work activities without accommodation.

# 5. Ineligible Activities

Ineligible activities include activities, business activities and purposes that are not eligible for financing and the corresponding exemptions, if any.

The list of ineligible activities can be found in **Schedule 1** to these General Eligibility Criteria.

# 6. Promotional Interest Rates and Aid Regulations

Pursuant to its loan programmes, HBOR approves loans at **promotional interest rate or at general interest rate** if the loan cannot be approved at promotional interest rate.

#### **Reference interest rate**

Reference interest rate is the base rate (calculated and published by the European Commission) increased by a certain number of basis points (margin) depending on the assessment of the client (credit rating) and the assessment of collateral, in accordance with the Communication from the European Commission.

#### General interest rate

Reference interest rate<sup>2</sup> that may be increased depending on HBOR's sources of funding and developments in the financial market as well as depending on the measures for the management of assets and liabilities for the purpose of capital protection.

#### Promotional interest rate

Effective interest rate<sup>3</sup> that is lower than the reference interest. If the loan is approved/contracted at promotional interest rate, HBOR grants aid to the borrower.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> **Reference interest rate** is the base rate (calculated and published by the European Commission) increased by a certain number of basis points (margin), depending on the assessment of the client (credit rating) and the assessment of collateral, in accordance with the Communication from the European Commission. HBOR's Rules on determining reference and discount rates are harmonised with the current rules of the European Commission, i.e. Communication from the Commission on the revision of the method for setting the reference and discount rates (OJ C 14, 19.1.2008).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Effective interest rate (EIR) is the interest rate presenting the total loan costs in accordance with the Croatian National Bank's Decision on Effective Interest Rates in force.

## Aid

The difference between the reference and promotional interest rate on certain loan during the entire lifetime of the loan and is calculated as discounted<sup>4</sup> amount of the difference between these two interest rates for a certain loan. If the difference between the reference and promotional interest rates for a specific loan is smaller than the difference between the interest rate under a specific loan programme and the interest rate agreed with the borrower, the aid can be the difference between the interest rate under a certain loan programme and the interest rate agreed with the borrower.

In the case of loans approved through financial intermediaries, the aid may be a reduction of the interest rate by the financial intermediary.

The possibility of aid granting depends on HBOR loan programme, on the level of reference interest rate or the interest rate under loan programme, i.e. the interest rate of the financial intermediary and on the borrower's possibilities on exercising the right to grant aid in accordance with the applicable regulations on state aid and de minimis aid (including the type of investment and activity of the borrower as well as the aid used so far).

#### Type of investment and aid

Investments in fixed assets (tangible and intangible assets) are generally financed in accordance with the state aid regulations<sup>5</sup>, and financing is possible also in accordance with de minimis aid regulations, whereas investments in working capital can be financed in accordance with de minimis aid regulations exclusively<sup>6</sup>.

#### 6.1. State Aid and Promotional Effect<sup>7</sup>

Lending under the state aid regime is possible in cases where aid has a promotional effect, which means that the borrower (the aid beneficiary) has to submit to HBOR or to the commercial bank a written application for aid contained in HBOR's loan prior to the start of works<sup>8</sup> on the project or the activity.

# Only those costs arising after the submission of a written application for aid can be recognised as justified costs of a planned project.

In the case of direct lending, **information on the intended investment**<sup>9</sup> submitted to HBOR in the period of up to 6 (six) months before the submission of a loan application is considered to be a written application for aid.

If more than 6 (six) months have elapsed between the submission of information on the intended investment and the submission of a loan application or if the information on the intended investment has

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> **Discount interest rate** is the basic rate (calculated and published by the European Commission) increased by 100 basis points. HBOR's Rules on determining reference and discount rates are harmonised with the current rules of the European Commission, i.e. Communication from the Commission on the revision of the method for setting the reference and discount rates (OJ C 14, 19.1.2008).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> For industry and services, as well as for processing and placing of agricultural products on the market, aid is granted on the basis of HBOR's State Aid Award Programme; whereas for activities of primary agricultural production, aid is granted on the basis of the State Aid Award Programme for the Agricultural Sector).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> HBOR's De Minimis Aid Award Regulations, and De Minimis State Aid Award Programme for Primary Agricultural Production.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Državne potpore i učinak poticaja primjenjuju se kod programa koji omogućavaju ulaganja u osnovna sredstva.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Start of works means either the start of construction works relating to the investment or the first legally binding commitment to order equipment or any other commitment that makes the investment irreversible, whichever comes first, excluding preparatory works (buying land and preparatory works such as obtaining permits and conducting feasibility studies are not considered to be the start of works). In case of take-overs, start of works means the moment of acquiring the assets directly linked to the acquired establishment.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Forms for information on intended investment and loan application have been published on HBOR's websites or can be obtained from HBOR at request.

not been submitted at all, the **loan application** accompanied by documentation required for the application processing shall be considered a written application for aid.

In the case of lending in cooperation with commercial banks, the **application for a loan to entrepreneur** accompanied by documentation required for the loan processing in accordance with the commercial bank's rules, submitted to the commercial bank in the period of not more than 6 (six) months before the commercial bank submits the loan application to HBOR is considered to be a written application for aid. If more than 6 (six) months have elapsed between the submission of application for a loan to entrepreneur and the submission of the loan application to HBOR by the commercial bank, **the loan application submitted by the commercial bank** co-signed by entrepreneur shall be considered a written application for aid.

### 6.2. Special Programmes in Terms of the Application of Aid Rules

#### EU projects

In case of candidate projects for co-financing out of proceeds of the European Structural and Investment Funds (hereinafter: ESI funds), HBOR loan is generally granted at general interest rate, since public support for the financing of the same eligible costs can be cumulated to the maximum allowed intensity under the call for submission of project proposals to be submitted by the EU funds implementing entity and is generally allocated to borrowers.

Exceptionally, granting of an HBOR loan at promotional interest rate for a part of the project that will be nominated for ESI funds is allowed only if by the call for submission of project proposals by the EU funds implementing entity it is not forbidden to cumulate the aid awarded through an ESI fund instrument with other aid instruments (including the aid from national sources of member countries) with respect to the same justified costs, and if the maximum allowed intensity of aid has not been cumulatively awarded to the borrower from the ESI funds and other sources.

In the event that the respective ban on cumulation of the aid awarded in respect of the same justified costs has been prescribed, as well as in case of the award of the maximum allowed intensity of aid from the ESI funds and/or other sources, financing at promotional interest rate is allowed exclusively for justified costs forming part of the project, which, in accordance with the terms of the call for submission of project proposals and/or other documentation are not eligible for financing through ESI funds.

#### Public sector investments

In case of financing infrastructure that is not intended for commercial use, state aid regulations are generally not applied, i.e. it is allowed to approve a loan at promotional interest rate, regardless of whether the conditions from the relevant state aid regulations have been met. This relates, for example, to general infrastructure such as public roads, bridges and canals that are made available to the public without receipt of tolls, as well as to the infrastructure intended for activities usually performed by the state in the execution of its public authority.

In case of borrowers that may be classified as entrepreneurs in terms of the state aid regulations<sup>10</sup>, loan can be approved at promotional interest rate, i.e. in the state aid and/or de minimis aid regime, depending on the purpose of infrastructure/project to be financed, or whether and to what extent is the project intended for economic exploitation or not, what has to be evaluated with regard to all the circumstances of an individual investment.

In case the purpose of an investment is an economic activity (entrepreneur in terms of aid regulations), and the borrower does not qualify for the award of state aid and/or de minims aid, the loan can be approved at general interest rate.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Entrepreneur is any entity active in an economic activity, regardless of its legal form. This includes, particularly, self-employed persons and family entrepreneurs that are active in crafts businesses or other business activities, partnerships or associations regularly engaged in an economic activity.

## **Financial restructuring**

Financing at promotional interest rate is possible exclusively pursuant to the criteria from the Guidelines on State Aid for Rescuing and Restructuring Non-Financial Undertakings in Difficulty (OJ C 249, 31.7.2014) and de minimis aid regulations.

Financing of companies in difficulties in terms of item 20 of the mentioned Guidelines is implemented exclusively in accordance with the provisions of the State Aid Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia, Nos. 47/14, 69/17) and its subsequent changes and amendments, i.e. with obligatory prior notification of the aid for rehabilitation and/or aid for restructuring for the assessment of the European Commission/the Ministry of Finance and respecting of all the criteria of the mentioned Guidelines.

In case of a direct lending to borrowers secured by a guarantee of the Republic of Croatia or a guarantee of a commercial bank acceptable for HBOR, generally in the amount of at least 80% of unrepaid amount of the principal, interest and other expenses relating to the Ioan, HBOR can finance business entities even when they are in difficulties, i.e. fulfil one of the criteria mentioned in item 20 of the Guidelines on State Aid for Rescuing and Restructuring Non-Financial Undertakings in Difficulty (OJ C 249, 31.7.2014) <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/HR/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C:2014:249:FULL&from=HR">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/HR/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C:2014:249:FULL&from=HR</a>

## 6.3. Exemptions from Financing at Promotional Interest Rate

Financing at promotional interest rate is not possible:

- (i) In case of programmes for export financing (Pre-Export Finance, Buyer Credit, Supplier Credit) since the state aid regulations exclude exclusively the possibility of awarding aid for exportoriented activities to third countries or member countries, or the aid connected directly with exported quantities, with the establishment and functioning of distribution network or with other current expenses related to the export activity;
- (ii) In the fisheries and aquaculture sector, including the activities of producing, processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products.

# 7. Others

Applicants are not automatically entitled to obtain a loan. HBOR makes a decision on each individual application.

### Schedule 1 – Ineligible activities

- (1) Activities which limit individual rights and freedoms or that violate human rights;
- (2) In the area of defence activities, the use, development, or production of products and technologies that are prohibited by applicable international law;
- (3) Tobacco-related products and activities (cultivation and production, distribution, processing and trade);
- (4) Activities excluded from financing pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Horizon Europe Regulation: research on human cloning for reproductive purposes; activities intended to modify the genetic heritage of human beings which could make such changes heritable; and activities to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT);
- (5) Gambling (production-, construction-, distribution-, processing-, trade- or software-related activities);
- (6) Sex trade and related infrastructure (including the media related to sex trade);
- (7) Activities involving live animals for experimental and scientific purposes insofar as compliance with the European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals for Experimental and other Scientific Purposes cannot be guaranteed;
- (8) Activities representing exclusively real estate business; real estate development activity, such as an activity with a sole purpose of renovating and re-leasing or re-selling existing buildings, as well as building new projects intended for sale (investments in energy efficiency projects are not excluded<sup>11</sup>);
- (9) Financial activities (e.g. purchasing or trading in securities, financial instruments or other financial products) including change of ownership (e.g. mergers and acquisitions). In particular, interventions targeting buy-out intended for asset stripping or replacement capital intended for asset stripping shall be excluded;
- (10) Activities forbidden by applicable national legislation;
- (11) Activities and assets where long-term waste disposal may harm the environment;
- (12) Activities that have a negative impact on the environment, and are not significantly mitigated or compensated;
- (13) All activities that are not allowed to be financed by aid from the relevant state aid regulations such as GBER, ABER, de minimis and other regulations applicable to a particular loan;
- (14) All prohibitions and restrictions in accordance with the contracts between HBOR and financial institutions and/or in accordance with the programmes and/or other documents applicable to a particular loan.

#### Other ineligible activities and purposes:

- (15) Investments or part of investments that serve for personal purposes;
- (16) Purchase of immovable or moveable property from related entities;
- (17) Investment in immovable property not owned by the borrower<sup>12</sup>;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Investments in energy efficiency projects include only costs related to raising the level of energy efficiency of the real estate, and do not include the costs of acquiring or building of real estate.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Exceptionally, investments in real estate that are not owned by the borrower are acceptable in the case of diffuse and integral hotels and/or if it is land or a building that is used on the basis of a concession contract or the right to

- (18) Refinancing of existing loans in case of capital investments;
- (19) Financing of working capital for commercial activities<sup>13</sup>;
- (20) Investment in apartments, rooms or summer houses to let<sup>14</sup>;
- (21) Notary activity;
- (22) Publishing of newspapers and other periodicals, production and broadcasting of radio and television programmes, news agency activities, advertising and public relations agency activities;
- (23) Hospitality facilities providing exclusively drink service;
- (24) Family-run residential care homes in accordance with the Social Welfare Act<sup>15</sup>.

<sup>14</sup> The restriction applies to apartments, rooms and summer houses to let pursuant to the Ordinance on Classification and Categorization of Catering Facilities in the group Other Accommodation Facilities. As an exception, investment in apartments, rooms or summer houses to let is eligible:

For tourist apartments pursuant to the Ordinance on Classification and Categorisation and special standards for catering facilities in the group Hotels, there are no restrictions on lending.

<sup>15</sup> As an exception, eligible are capital investments of family-run residential care homes that have been operating for at least one year for the purpose of adaptation and reorganisation into an institution in accordance with the Social Welfare Act.

build, lease or rent, provided that the period of concession, lease or rent cannot be shorter than the loan repayment term.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Exceptionally, it is acceptable to finance working capital for commercial activities of:

<sup>(</sup>i) Business entities engaged in purchasing of agricultural production and/or supplying agricultural producers with raw materials, seeds etc.;

<sup>(</sup>ii) Wholesale trade when it is an important part of the supply chain in the processing industry, fisheries and tourism industry;

<sup>(</sup>iii) Business entities where a significant part of the business also relates to the production, processing, finishing of products etc. and/or to the services of processing, finishing of products etc. (at least 30% of income/receipts relate to the aforementioned activities, which can be established based on the structure of income/receipts of the business entity according to the activities for the previous business year);

<sup>(</sup>iv) If it is a loan through a commercial bank or a loan from the funds under the framework loan agreement with a commercial bank or a leasing company.

<sup>(</sup>i) In supported areas - local government units classified into groups I, II, III or IV, or hill or mountain areas or the islands classified into group I;

<sup>(</sup>ii) in the case of traditional buildings (individual buildings that are protected as cultural goods, buildings located in settlement zones that are protected as cultural goods or are located in contact zones of protected zones, and all other individual buildings that are being built/reconstructed in accordance with the special conditions of the conservator regarding traditional construction, where the term conservator is considered to be the Conservation Department of the Ministry of Culture or another public legal body responsible for the protection of cultural property).