

Frequently asked questions on: Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards

This list aims to address some of the most frequent questions/misunderstandings. More FAQ's may be added.

1.

Q. Will I benefit from EU funding if I comply with these guidelines?

A. These guidelines only deal with the territorial eligibility criteria. Each EU programme has additional, specific eligibility criteria, such as criteria concerning the nature of the activity.

2.

Q. I produce wine in a West Bank settlement. Will these guidelines affect my exports to the European market?

A. No. The guidelines refer only to EU funded grants, prizes and financial instruments such as loans. They do not refer to exports to the European Union.

There is no limitation of exports to the European Union of products produced in the settlements. According to the Association Agreement, these products however do not benefit from exemptions from customs duties.

3.

Q. A health service provider (Kupat Holim) has branches in the territories. In the past it received a research grant from the EU. Do the new guidelines mean that in the future it will be ineligible to receive such a grant?

A. To be eligible, the entity applying for a grant needs to be established in Israel's pre-1967 lines. In addition, the entity can only apply for EU funding for an activity that takes place inside the 1967 lines or for an activity that is carried out in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 but that aims to benefit the protected persons (as defined in Art. 4 paragraphs 1 & 2 of the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949) who live in these territories and/or aims to promote the Middle East peace process in line with EU policy.

(See section D, points 12a and 15 of the guidelines)

If these two conditions (place of establishment and eligibility of activities) are fulfilled, the Kupat Holim would be eligible to receive a grant despite the fact that it has branches in the territories.

4.

Q. A big Israeli bank with branches in the territories wishes to receive a loan from the European Investment Bank but this loan is not intended for the use of the bank as the final recipient but rather to be passed on to Israeli companies. Does the fact that the bank has branches in the territories make it ineligible to receive such a loan?

A. No. Provided that the bank is not the final recipient of the loan it will still be eligible to receive it from the European Investment Bank.

However the Israeli companies that will be the final recipient of the loan will need to declare that they do not operate in the territories either in the framework of the EU-funded activity or in any other way.

5.

Q. Is it true that the guidelines make ineligible for EU financial instruments (loans and bank guarantees) any entity which has any operation in the occupied territories?

A. No. Entities based within the 1967 lines with operations in settlements could be eligible but only if they were applying for loans and bank guarantees for activities for the benefit of the protected persons (as defined in Art. 4 paragraphs 1 & 2 of the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949) who live in these territories and/or aim to promote the Middle East peace process in line with EU policy.

6.

Q. A research institute is situated in Rehovot (inside the 1967 lines) but most of its staff comes from settlements in the territories. Does this make it ineligible for EU funding under the new guidelines?

A. No. The guidelines do not relate to natural persons.

The guidelines apply only to legal entities such as local authorities and other public bodies, not for profit organizations and public and private companies.

A research institute situated beyond the 1967 lines would not be eligible for EU funding even if all of its staff would come from localities inside the 1967 lines.

7.

Q. An Israeli university inside the 1967 lines is engaged in a research project with an Israeli institute situated outside the 1967 lines.

Can the Israeli university situated inside the 1967 lines still be eligible for EU grants?

A. This particular project between the two universities will not be eligible. But otherwise, the Israeli university situated inside the 1967 lines would still be eligible for EU grants for activities that are carried out inside the 1967 lines or for an activity that is carried out in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 but that aims to benefit the protected persons (as defined in Art. 4 paragraphs 1 & 2 of the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949) who live in these territories and/or aims to promote the Middle East peace process in line with EU policy.

(See section D, points 12a and 15 of the guidelines)

Israeli institutes situated outside the 1967 lines are not eligible for EU grants. A research project carried out jointly by an Israeli university inside the 1967 lines and an Israeli institute situated outside the 1967 lines can not benefit from EU grants.

8.

Q. I am an Israeli student who lives in a settlement but I study at an Israeli university inside the 1967 lines. I want to participate in an EU-funded academic exchange with a European university under the Erasmus Mundus programme. Am I eligible to do so?

A. Yes, you would still be eligible to apply.

9.

Q. An NGO that is located in East-Jerusalem, beyond the 1967 lines, applies for an EU grant for an activity that aims to benefit the Palestinian population in East Jerusalem. Is it eligible to do so?

A. To be eligible, the Israeli entity applying for a grant needs to be established in Israel's pre-1967 lines *even if* it applies for funding for an activity that is carried out in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 that aims to benefit the protected persons (as defined in Art. 4 paragraphs 1 & 2 of the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949) who live in these territories and/or aims to promote the Middle East peace process in line with EU policy. (see Section C, point 9a and Section D, points 12 and 15 of the guidelines).

If the request relates to a humanitarian operation, the entity is not eligible as the European Commission's Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO) can only fund international NGOs established in Europe.

10.

Q. Can DG ECHO continue funding humanitarian partners for operations targeting and benefiting Palestinians living in the occupied Palestinian territory beyond pre-1967 lines when their implementation involves Israeli entities?

A. Yes, provided that those Israeli entities are established within Israel's pre-1967 lines.

DG ECHO will take appropriate measures to make sure that its direct partners are implementing the funded operations in full compliance with the guidelines.

11.

Q. Questions have been raised in the Israeli media as to whether the Hebrew University is eligible to receive EU grants under the new guidelines. Will the Hebrew University be eligible?

A. The place of establishment of the Hebrew University is within the 1967 lines. Therefore, as long as the funded activity also takes place inside the 1967 lines or is for an activity that is carried out in the territories but that aims to benefit protected persons (as defined in Art. 4 paragraphs 1 & 2 of the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949) who live in these territories and/or aims to promote the Middle East peace process in line with EU policy, the grant application will be considered eligible.