**General Principles of the M4EG Secretariat collaboration with Signatories**

The purpose of the Mayors for Economic Growth Initiative is, through close collaboration with the willing local administrations, to grow and develop local economic growth champions and share their experience across the region.

The M4EG Club is designed for the most committed members, who allocate time and effort to deliver on the undertaken obligations, comply with the requirements, and show good progress.

The Mayors for Economic Growth Initiative is open to all the local administrations and the M4EG Secretariat does not apply any eligibility criteria for the willing signatories. However, in the view of a very large number of signatories and very different levels of existing commitment, capacity and economic growth potential, the EC and the M4EG Secretariat have agreed on minimal criteria and standards to be taken into consideration while deciding on the type of support that can be offered to the signatories, with the limited resources in mind.

By signing the Membership Form signatories take upon themselves the obligations spelled out therein, which they have to fulfill in order to stay an M4EG member regardless of the type and intensity of the support they were able to receive. At the same time, the M4EG Secretariat works to ensure that the basic services universally available to all the signatories provide sufficient information and guidance for the Members to succeed in delivering on their commitments and rise to the next level.

To stay an M4EG Member, a signatory must comply with the following requirements:

1. Submit a Local Economic Development Plan of good quality and in accordance with the M4EG Methodology (M4EG Concept and Guidelines for LED Plans development) by the established deadline (generally within 12 months of the signing date, but in some cases the deadline could be extended by the Secretariat). The signatories which failed to do that, will lose the Membership status. This also concerns the Pioneer Project implementers (recipients of grants).
2. Implement at least 70% of the Plan within two years of the Local Economic Development Plan within 24 months of its formal approval and conduct regular reporting on the progress every 6 months. With two reporting deadlines missed, the signatories will lose the Membership status.

Below there’s a table, presenting a short overview of the types of support and the corresponding eligibility criteria for the M4EG members, starting from the basic services available to all signatories to the exclusive services to the best performing members, who are likely to be role models and success cases of the “Mayors for Economic Growth”.

These recommended criteria are of a generic advisory nature, which is not context-specific. In difficult/dubious situations the eligibility of a signatory for certain types of support will be decided by the M4EG Secretariat on a case-by-case basis. The table below could be updated by the Secretariat in the future, should the circumstances change, or more detail about the Project activities become available.

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|  | Services | Available to | Special Requirements |
| BASIC LEVEL | * Provision of all relevant informational and methodological materials, as well as e-learning opportunities online.
* Featuring the Signatory individual file on the M4EG website and in the media, promoting them to the interested donors, partners and potential investors.
* Opportunity of participation in large-scale Project activities (such as the Capacity Needs Assessment during the first year, and some others, as the details become available).
* Access to information and opportunities deriving from strategic agreements of the M4EG Secretariat with major international financing institutions, donors, investors, etc.
* Eligibility for other EU funding opportunities within “Mayors for Economic Growth” Initiative that may arise in the future.
 | **All M4EG Members** | * Membership Form signed and submitted.
* The information for the Signatory Personal File provided.
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| ADVANCED LEVEL (planning stage) | * Targeted capacity building in LEDP development (4 face-to-face training modules on LEDP development).
 | **M4EG Members with proved capacity and motivation, i.e.****- Recipients of grants;****- Pre-selected applicants to the CfP);****- Other high-potential committed members** | * Economic Development Officer appointed and made available for the trainings and other Project-related work and communications with the Secretariat;
* Capacity Needs Assessment Performed;
* There are no significant perceived risks of the Member dropout within the next 2-3 years.
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| ADVANCED LEVEL (implementing stage) | * Targeted capacity building on selected development topics (face-to-face training, study tours, thematic workshops).
* Ad hoc expert assistance for relevant matters;
* Benefits deriving from strategic agreements of the M4EG Secretariat with major international financing institutions, donors, investors, etc.;
* Participation in regional knowledge and information sharing activities (Local Economic Development Events throughout the region and beyond, staff exchanges, etc.).
 | **- Pioneer Project Implementers;****- Acting M4EG Members;****- Other high-potential committed members** | * Grant contract awarded, implementation started, regular reports are submitted;
* Capacity Needs Assessment performed;
* The LEDP submitted on time, assessed and approved by the World Bank. Implementation of the plan has been started, regular reports are submitted to the M4EG Secretariat;
* There are no significant perceived risks of the Member dropout within the next 2-3 years.
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| EXCLUSIVE SERVICES | * Wide success stories dissemination;
* Territorial branding assistance;
* Opportunity to work as mentors to junior members;
* Present and promote their territory at international platforms;
* Benefits deriving from strategic agreements of the M4EG Secretariat with major international financing institutions, donors, investors, etc.
 | **Successful Pioneer Project Implementers;****Successful Acting M4EG Members;****Graduate M4EG Members** | * Pioneer projects are implemented in a timely and efficient manner;
* LEDPs are implemented to the minimum of 70%;
* Reports and success stories are provided on time and upon request.
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