**MERIT CRITERIA – STAGE I**

**Eligibility criterion – To be assessed by the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management**

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| **No.** | **Criterion** | **Criterion description** | **Assessment rules: Yes/No** | **Comment** |
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. |
|  | Project eligibility | It will be assessed whether the type of project fits in the catalogue indicated on the open call announcement.  Basis for assessment: application form with attachments | Yes/No |  |

**State aid appraisal – To be filled in by the technical unit responsible for the assessment in the field of state aid**

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| **No.** | **Criterion name** | **Criterion description** | **Assessment rules: Yes/No** | **Comments** |
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. |
|  | The financing is in line with the state aid rules | * appraisal if the co-financing constitutes state aid; * if the grant constitutes state aid, appraisal if the aid complies with the provisions/regulations governing the state aid | Yes/No |  |

**Financial evaluation - To be completed by the technical unit responsible for the financial evaluation of the project**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Criterion name** | **Criterion description** | **Assessment rules: Yes/No** | **Comments** |
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. |
|  | Applicant's financial standing/situation –current and forecasted - including feasibility and financial durability analysis | As part of the criterion, the following will be assessed, in particular:  1) the applicant's ability to ensure the feasibility and financial sustainability of the project on the basis of analysis of the applicant's financial reports and projections;  2) the correctness of the assumptions used for financial analysis;  3) confirmed, reliable sources of project co-financing (if applicable);  4) possibility of establishing a financial security (if applicable).  The criterion will be assessed using the provisions of the Instruction: "Securing the NFEPWM's claims arising from contracts for project co-financing", regarding:  - rules for setting collaterals for any claims under loans/subsidies arising from concluded contracts and contracts in the process of conclusion for co-financing projects from the NFEPWM, including projects co-financed from non-returnable foreign funds, and  - defining the general principles for carrying out financial evaluations of grant applications.  Basis for assessment: application form with attachments. | Yes/No/Non-applicable |  |

**Equality criterion – To be assessed by the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management**

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| **No** | **Criterion** | **Criterion description** | **Assessment rules: Yes/No/Not applicable** | **Comment** |
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. |
|  | The project is in line with equal opportunities and non-discrimination rules | As part of the criterion, it will be assessed whether the project has a positive (or at least neutral) influence on in particular:   * Accessibility for people with disabilities. * Gender equality | Yes/No/Not applicable |  |