



Finance seminar Interreg Europe 3rd call projects



INTRODUCTION

Our goal

To provide:



- Information on financial reporting and control procedures and requirements
- Practical case studies
- Room for your questions
- Opportunity to exchange on financial matters with financial managers and first level controllers of other projects



Before we start...

Main abbreviations

- FLC = First level controller
- LP = Lead partner
- PP = Project partner
- JS = Joint secretariat
- MA = Managing authority
- PM = Programme manual (not project manager ©)
- PR = Progress report
- AF = Application form





1. Financial reporting: legal framework and procedures



Content

- 1. Reporting procedures
- 2. Lead partner's role
- 3. First level control

4. Audits and anti-fraud strategy



1. REPORTING PROCEDURES

Reporting procedures – timeframe for reporting

 Reporting periods set by call subject to the monitoring committee (MC)'s approval

EXAMPLE for 3rd call projects:

	Rep	orting period	Deadline for submission		
Phase 1 (e.g.36 months)	six-monthly	01 June – 30 Nov. 01 Dec. – 31 May	01 March 01 September		
Phase 2 (24 months)	annual*	01 June – 31 May	01 September (1st year) 31 May (2nd year)		

^{*} six-monthly reporting under certain conditions



Reporting procedures

What are the main steps?



Is it option 1?

 Project partners send their reports incl. list of expenditure and list of contracts to their FLCs through iOLF

 The FLCs verify and confirm the eligibility of the expenditure reported by the respective project partners in iOLF

 The lead partner consolidates and submits the joint progress report to the JS

3



Is it option 2?

 Project partners send their reports incl. list of expenditure and list of contracts to the lead partner through iOLF

• The FLC of the lead partner verifies and confirms the eligibility of the expenditure

 The lead partner consolidates and submits the joint progress report to the JS

3



Reporting procedures

Option 1 or 2?





Option 1!

 Project partners send their reports incl. list of expenditure and list of contracts to their FLCs through iOLF

 The FLCs verify and confirm the eligibility of the expenditure reported by the respective project partners in iOLF

 The lead partner consolidates and submits the joint progress report to the JS

3



Preliminary steps

- During the first reporting period project partners:
- √ have signed the project partnership agreement

ONLY partners who signed the project partnership agreement can report costs!



Preliminary steps

- During the first reporting period project partners:
- ✓ have identified the organizations responsible for first level control at the Partner State level

If decentralised control systems:

FLC designated by the national approbation body through iOLF

Ready for the reporting procedures!





PPs fill the partner reports and submit them to their FLCs through iOLF







Online in the iOLF: all reporting

Offline: Providing the **supporting documents** (invoice, payment proofs, procurement documents, etc.) to **FLC**







The partner report includes:

- The list of expenditure
- The list of contracts
- Partner's activity report



The list of expenditure (LoE)



4. List of Expenditure

Do any corrections linked to previous PRs have to

be implemented in the current PR? 1

Budgetline (1)		Total budget	Previously reported	Currently reported	Certified amount	Total reported so far	% of Total reported so far	Remaining budget
Preparation		15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	15,000.00	100.00%	0.00
Staff costs	•	199,300.00	34,333.25	40,999.86	0.00	75,333.11	37.80%	123,966.89
Office and administration		29,895.00	5,149.99	6,149.97	0.00	11,299.96	37.80%	18,595.04
Travel and accommodation	•	33,055.00	1,946.76	3,964.76	0.00	5,911.52	17.88%	27,143.48
External expertise and services	•	33,600.00	1,275.38	7,652.85	0.00	8,928.23	26.57%	24,671.77
Equipment	•	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
(Net Revenue)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00 %	0.00
Total		310,850.00	57,705.38	58,767.44	0.00	116,472.82	37.47 %	194,377.18



The list of expenditure



- Costs incurred and paid by the partner in the reporting period
- For PR1: eligible from 13 March 2018 until 30 November 2018 (no costs paid out after!)

 Preparation costs lump sum automatically allocated to the lead partner report



The list of expenditure



Descriptions in the list of expenditure:

self-explanatory

 clear link with reported activities/outputs planned in AF



The list of expenditure



Why so important?

- Finances have to match the activities
- Costs in PR reported against expenditure planned in AF



Expenditure in list of expenditure coherent with reported activities + costs planned in AF!



The list of contracts (LoC)



 Listing all contracts used for the implementation of the project (above & below EU thresholds)

3. List of contracts



Add Contract

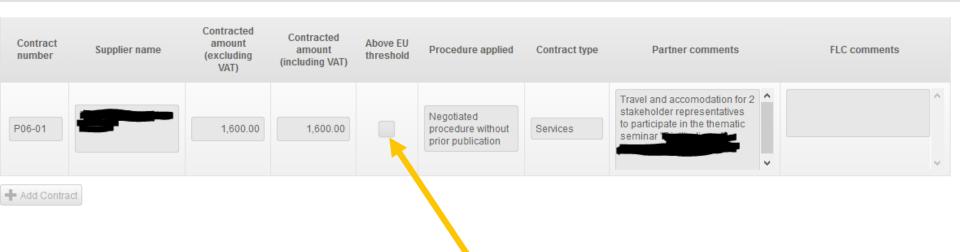


The list of contracts (LoC)



 For costs related to travel and accommodation, external expertise and equipment

3. List of contracts





Only contracts above EU thresholds should be transferred to the joint progress report. To transfer a contract into the joint PR, just tick the box 'above EU threshold'



How to fill it in?



Above EU threshold?

Current EU thresholds* (since January 2018, excluding VAT):

- 1. 221,000€ for all public law bodies
- 144,000€ for all central government authorities (this is a limited list of authorities, if you are on it you usually know it!)

*Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2017/2365



What to include in the LoC?





'Classical' contracts



Any written contractual agreement e.g. confirmation emails or purchase orders.



What you should not include in the LoC?

One-off purchases



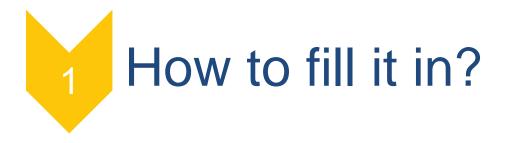




How to fill it in?



■ Contracted amount: in case there is no contractual amount → indicate the amount budgeted which allowed to determine the procurement procedure to apply.





Procedure applied

▼ Explanations for public procurement procedures

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U	pen		UL	eu	u	16

Restricted procedure

Competitive procedure with negotiation

Competitive dialogue

Innovation partnership

Other EU-level procedure Request for several offers

Negotiated procedure without prior publication

Any interested supplier may respond to an advertisement in the OJEU (or another publication if below EU thresholds) by submitting a tender/offer.

Any interested supplier may respond to an advertisement in the OJEU (or another publication if below EU thresholds) From those a selection is made to submit a tender/offer.

Any interested supplier may respond to an advertisement in the OJEU. From those a selection is made and invited to submit an initial tender/offer. The contracting authority may then open negotiations with the potential suppliers to seek improved offers.

Any interested supplier may respond to an advertisement in the OJEU. From those a selection is made and the contracting authority enters into dialogue with potential suppliers, to develop one or more suitable solutions for its requirements and for which chosen potential suppliers will be invited to submit a tender/offer.

Any interested supplier may respond to an advertisement in the OJEU. From those a selection is made and the contracting authority uses a negotiated approach to invite suppliers to submit ideas to develop innovative works, supplies or services aimed at meeting a need for which there is no suitable existing 'product' on the market. The contracting authority is allowed to award partnerships to more than one supplier.

For instance, dynamic purchasing system.

Several potential suppliers are directly addressed and invited to submit tenders/offers.

= direct awards. The contracting authority may approach one or more potential suppliers seeking to negotiate the terms of the contract.



The partner's activity report



- Goal = to provide information to the FLC on the activities carried out
- Can be filled in national language
- Not compulsory to use = information can be provided outside the system
- Only in the partner report = not included in the joint progress report





2

FLCs check the expenditure and fill the control report including checklist in iOLF

Partner reports certified!



3

Main steps



PPs send their certified partner reports to the LP through iOLF.



The partner report includes:

- First level control certificate
- Control report including checklist
- Certified list of expenditure including the list of contracts
- PP's activity report



4

The LP consolidates the partner reports in the joint progress report (PR) in iOLF

No special role for the lead partner's controller!



BUT in case of doubts \rightarrow LP ask for clarifications to PP and can:

- undertake minor changes (e.g. no change in amount)
- send back the partner report (major change>new FLC certification)

PP + FLC always informed!



5

Submission of the joint PR to the joint secretariat (JS) within three months after the end of reporting period



1 March 2019

for the first reporting period



6

Clarification and/or approval of the joint PR



Main steps



Execution of payment by the certifying authority



Reporting procedures – timeframe for reporting

How to make sure to have a **sound financial reporting** in place and to be able to report costs in full and in time **by**1 March 2019?



Yes, it is possible!

Reporting procedures – timeframe for reporting



Partners reporting to their FLC:

- Fill in report continuously during the semester
- Submission to the FLC shortly after the end of the reporting periods

Reporting procedures – timeframe for reporting



Partners reporting to LP:

 Submission of partner reports early enough to compile PR

Agree on internal deadlines!





References

- Useful information in the programme manual:
- Section 6.2: Reporting
- Section 7: Financial management

Tutorials on the reporting process are available online





2. LEAD PARTNER'S ROLE

Lead partner principle



Lead partner =



 formal link between the project and the managing authority/joint secretariat

 responsible for management, communication, implementation and coordination of activities

Legal basis: article 13 of the ETC Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013



The LP consolidates the partner reports in the joint progress report, in compliance with the minimum requirements:

the expenditure is related to the project and corresponds to the activities in the application form

 the expenditure is certified by a controller (in line with national control requirements)

Do not re-do the work of the partner's controllers!



The lead partner checks the partner reports on the basis of:

- The FLC certificate
- The control report incl. checklist
- The list of expenditure + list of contracts



After the submission of the joint progress report, the LP:

 answers to the list of <u>clarification</u> requests sent by the JS





After the approval of the progress report, the LP:

- receives the payment of the programme funding;
- transfers the programme funding to project partners without delay (!) in compliance with the amounts stated in the progress report.





To sum up the whole process

 The project partner completes the list of expenditure and provides supporting documents (partner report)



- The FLC checks and confirms eligible expenditure
 - ✓ Control report including checklist
 - ✓ FLC certificate



 The lead partner checks and includes partner reports in the joint progress report

Set a realistic time frame!



Time for questions...





3. FIRST LEVEL CONTROL

FLC and regulatory requirements

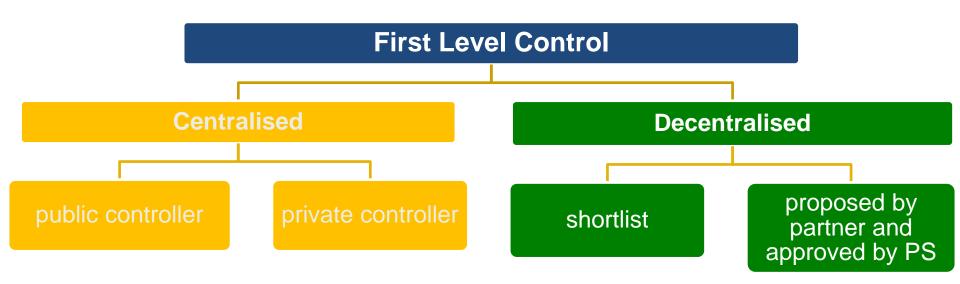
 All expenditure reported has to be certified by an independent controller, before submission to the JS

The organisation of this control = Partner State responsibility

Legal basis: Art. 23 (4) of Regulation (EU) 1299/2013



The different FLC systems





First level control systems

CENTRALISED (15): Belgium: Brussels+ Wallonia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Luxemburg, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Northern Ireland (UK)

DECENTRALISED (16): Austria, Belgium-Flanders, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom

+ Validation body for Spain and Portugal!



FLC and regulatory requirements

What?

First level controllers (FLCs) verify and confirm:

- the compliance of the costs with
 - ✓ the approved application form
 - ✓ the subsidy contract/ partnership agreement
 - ✓ the applicable European regulations
 - ✓ the national/internal rules
 - ✓ Interreg Europe programme manual
- the delivery and payment of funded products and services



FLC and regulatory requirements

How?

Desk checks	On-the-spot checks
Compulsory for each progress report	Reg. (EU) 1303/2013 Art. 125 (5) At least once during the project lifetime (timing: end of phase 1?)
If 100% expenditure check not proportionate, sampling allowed	If not proportionate, sampling of operations checked on-the spot possible
Sampling methodology justified in control report	
Checks and results documented in the control report (including checklist)	Start date, amount checked and result recorded in control report

On-the-spot checks

In the context of Interreg Europe, they are useful to check in more depth



- the proper functioning of internal processes (ordering, accounting, payment)
- the existence & delivery of goods and services (meetings with staff, publications, equipment)



FLC and regulatory requirements

How?

The FLC checks the expenditure reported in iOLF by the partner in its **partner report** on the basis of the control report including checklist (Annex 3 of PM) => minimum requirements for the controller's checks.





FLC and regulatory requirements

How?

The FLC certifies the expenditure and fills the programme key documents in iOLF:

- First level control report (Annex 3 of the programme manual)
- First level control certificate + additional tick for validation for Spain and Portugal (Annex 2 of programme manual)



Recap FLC procedure

- PPs reporting to their FLC
- ✓ PPs submit their partner report to the FLC shortly after the end of a reporting period
- FLC's verifying and validating reports or sending clarification requests
- PPs replying to FLCs clarification requests
- Be aware of FLC deadlines!

Conclusions



 LP asks partners to get to know their FLC system as soon as possible

- For decentralised systems:
 - Procure and contract first level controller
 - Ask national approbation body to approve the FLC

Don't leave it to the last minute!

Procurement and designation take time





References

- Useful information in the programme manual:
- Section 6.2: Reporting
- Section 7: Financial management
- See also the **Delegated** Regulation (EU) 481/2014





Time for questions...





4. AUDITS AND ANTI-FRAUD STRATEGY

Quality checks/audits

To ensure proper use of funds, several bodies carry out quality checks/audits:









Second Level Auditors

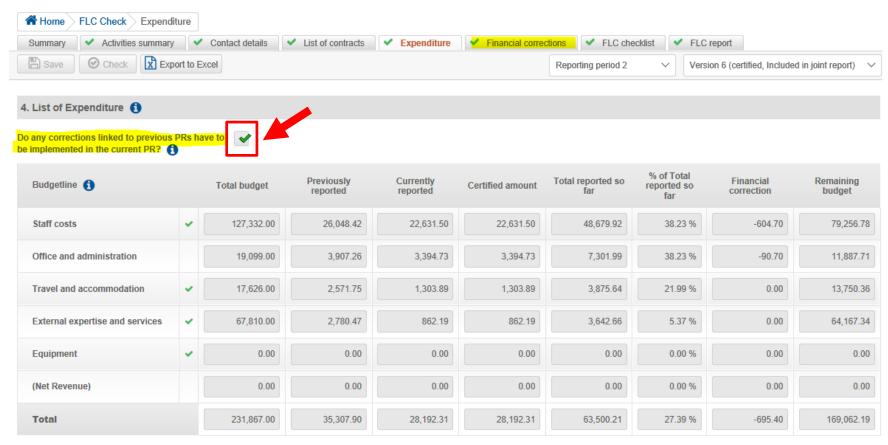


National checks



Financial corrections

Following quality checks/audit, irregularities may be detected and corrected through a financial correction:



Second level audit campaign 2017-2018

Main reason for irregularities:

- VAT
- Miscalculation in staff costs



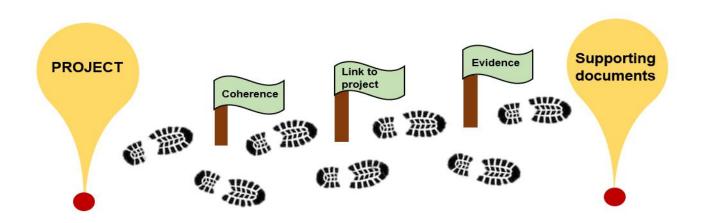


No systemic irregularities, only individual irregularities with very limited financial impact

Second level audit campaign 2017-2018

Main lessons learnt:

Pay attention to the audit trail



Make it simple for staff costs



Anti-fraud strategy

- Regulatory requirement for MAs to
 "put in place effective and proportionate anti-fraud measures taking into account the risks identified"
 (Article 125(4)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)
- implemented notably through:
 - information of project and FLC on the main risks identified
 - recommendations included in the programme manual
 - FLC checklist taking into account risks identified
 - procedures for the reporting of suspected fraud

Definition of fraud



Fraud



Intentional

Irregularity

error /bad management

Consequences:

financial correction

financial correction

investigation & sanctions



Fraud risks identified

Irregularity	Fraud
Added hours on the timesheet wrongly so claimed excess hours than worked.	Intentionally added more hours on the timesheet then actually worked. Repeated on a number of occasions.
Used same invoice twice. The amount relates to goods and services received.	Charged invoice for goods not related to project for personal gain or for goods not received.
Travelled on project related activities but unable to provide the key supporting evidence.	Travelled for personal reason and charged the costs to the project.
Followed the tendering process correctly but did not fully comply with all the requirements.	Followed the tendering process but internally manipulated the bids to favour a particular tenderer.



Fraud risks identified

Main risks identified for Interreg Europe programme:

- Staff costs reported do not correspond to the reality
- Public procurement (conflict of interests, favouritism, corruption)
- Double financing



Fraud risks - origin

Fraud risks may be at the level of:

the beneficiary staff

the external contractors

collusion between the two

JS / FLC staff (conflict of interest, corruption...)



Fraud prevention and detection

To prevent and detect fraud, partners should:

- be aware of the potential risks of fraud
- have internal procedures in place to prevent and detect fraud
- See revised programme manual
- general info in section 7.8
- recommendations for public procurement in section 7.4.6



Fraud prevention and detection

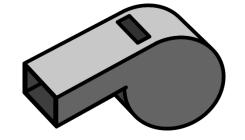
 FLC should check the beneficiaries' reports and supporting documents with "appropriate skepticism" (in particular for staff costs and public procurement)



<u>appropriate skepticism</u> = "an attitude that includes a questioning mind and a critical assessment of audit evidence"

Reporting suspected or established fraud

How can the MA/JS be informed?

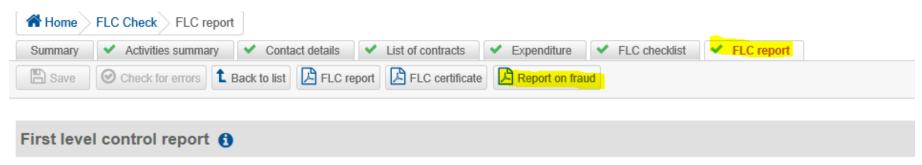


- whistleblowing procedure for general public/beneficiaries (adress available at https://www.interregeurope.eu/about-us/anti-fraud-policy/)
- specific reporting template for FLC



FLC reporting template on suspected or established fraud

Available for download in iOLF from FLC report tab of the partner report:



 To be sent by the FLC to the JS financial control and audit officer by email



Time for questions...







2. The iOLF reporting system





Interreg Europe data base

iDB

Joint secretariat
Managing authority
Certifying authority

Partner states*
Approbation bodies*

*statistics







Interreg Europe online forms

iOLF

Lead partners

Project partners
First level controllers
Validation bodies (ES & PT)
Approbation bodies



Reporting fully online

Reporting fully online in the iOLF system!

- Partner reports
 - (incl. list of expenditure and list of contracts)
- FLC designation (no longer designation certificates for decentralised countries)
- FLC certification
 - (incl. the first level control certificate, the control report incl. checklist, and the financial correction sheet, if applicable)
- Validation (for ES + PT partners)
- Joint progress report



Reporting fully online

Partners and FLCs need access to iOLF

LP creates only the access for partners

Project Use	ers Application Form (V	ersion 1) V User Admin	User Administration	
Number	Organisation (English)	Email	Status	
LP	Partner A	k.ecke@interregeurope.eu	Active	
LP	Partner A	i.piazza@interregeurope.eu	Active	
LP	Partner A	p.polaskova@interregeurope.eu	Active	
LP	Partner A	test@lp.eu	Active	

- Centralised FLCs exist in the system already
- Decentralised FLCs need to contact their Approbation body to be assigned to the project partner in iOLF



IN PRACTICE

Reporting system - iOLF



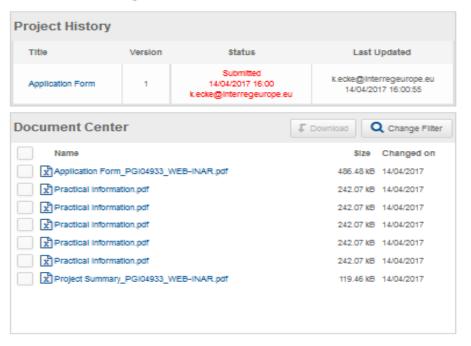
http://iolf.eu/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2f

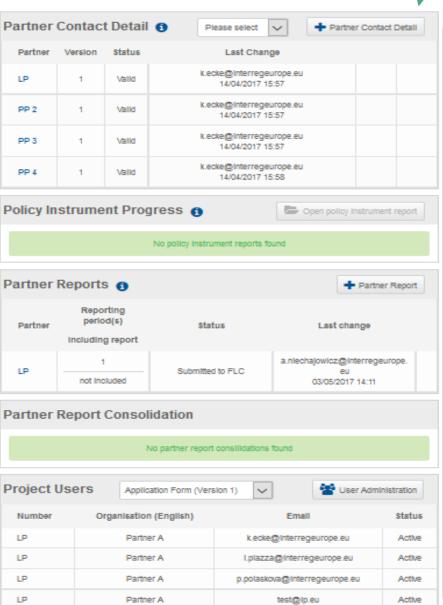
Log in		
Email		
Password		
Register if you don't have a	n account.	▶ Log in
Forgot Password?		
Need help? Mail to info@in Question" or call +33 3 61 7	terregeurope.eu with subject ° 76 59 59	iOLF .

The use of iOLF signifies unconditional acceptance to the terms and conditions.

Project dashboard

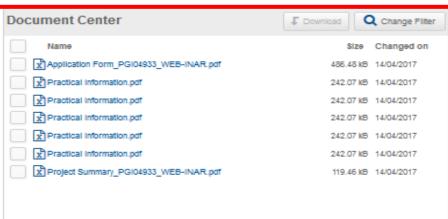




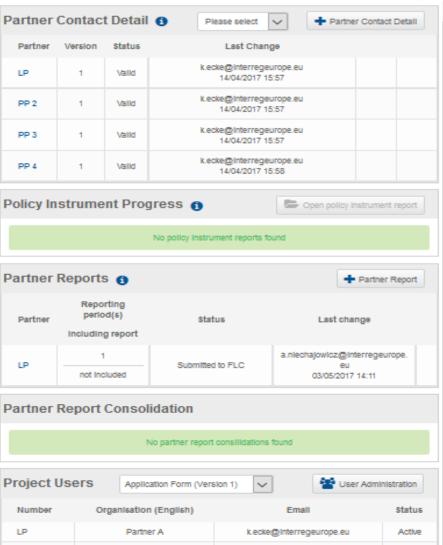


Project History









I.plazza@interregeurope.eu

p.polaskova@Interregeurope.eu

test@lp.eu

LP

LP

LP

Partner A

Partner A

Partner A

Active

Active

Active

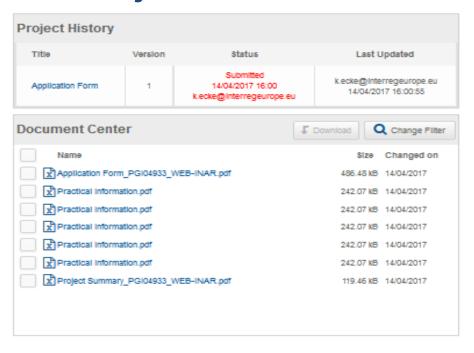
Project History

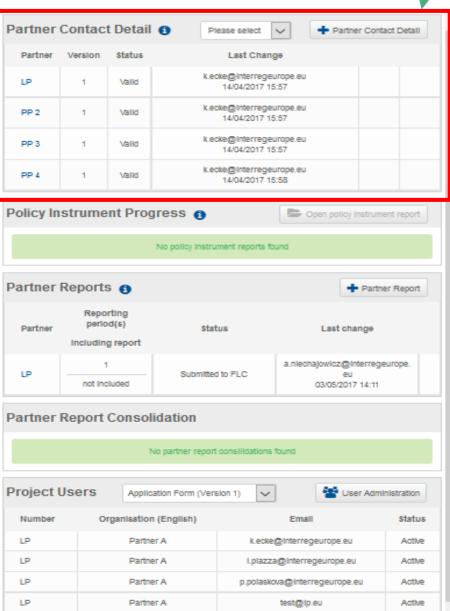


Project History			
Title	Version	Status	Last Updated
Monitoring Committee decision		Approved	JS 12/04/2016 17:58:30
Progress report 1	1	Open	WebApi 13/09/2016 10:22:45
Conditions		Open	JS 04/04/2016 16:46:44
Application Form	2	Submitted 07/03/2016 18:00	07/03/2016 18:00:38

Project contact details







Partner contact details

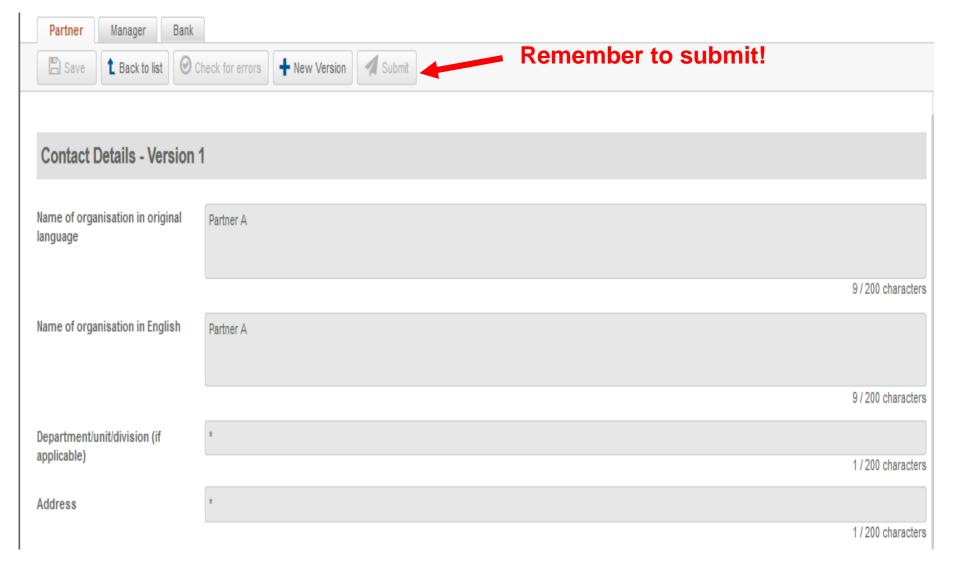


- The only place where contact details are edited
- Partner details can be changed by partner & LP

Partner 0	Contact I	Detail 🚯	Please select Partner Contact Detail
Partner	Version	Status	Last Change
LP	1	Valid	k.ecke@interregeurope.eu 14/04/2017 15:57
PP 2	1	Valid	k.ecke@interregeurope.eu 14/04/2017 15:57
PP 3	1	Valid	k.ecke@interregeurope.eu 14/04/2017 15:57
PP 4	1	Valid	k.ecke@interregeurope.eu 14/04/2017 15:58

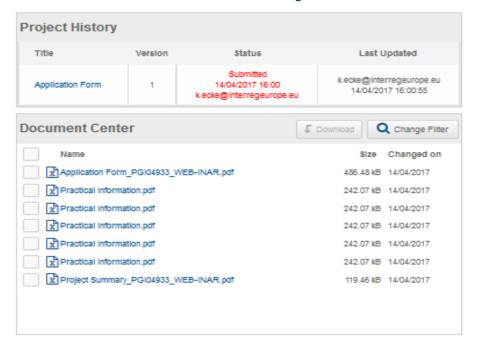
Updating partner contact details

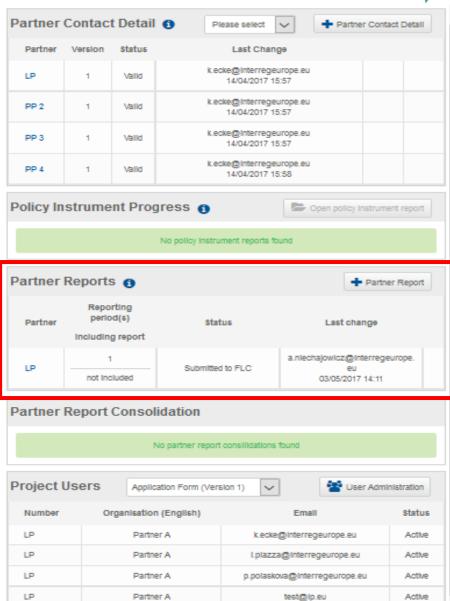




Partner reports



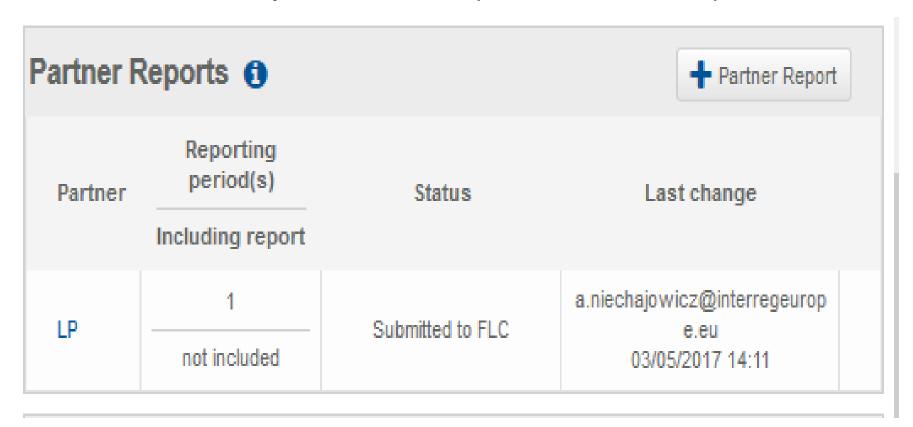




Partner reports

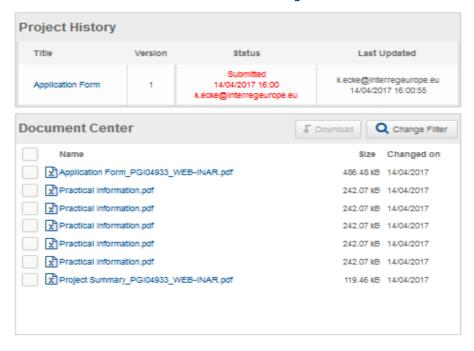


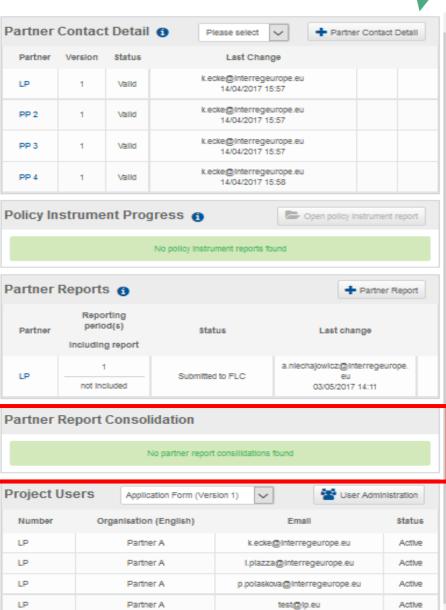
- Each partner can see only their own reports
- LP notified by email when a partner submits report to FLC



Partner report consolidation







Partner report consolidation

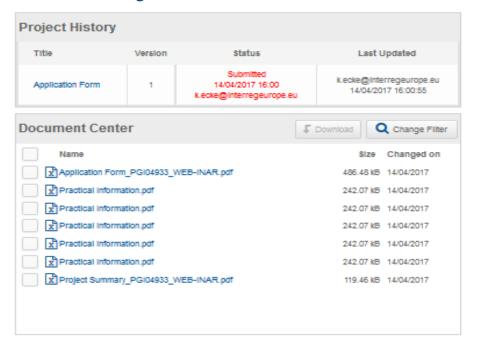


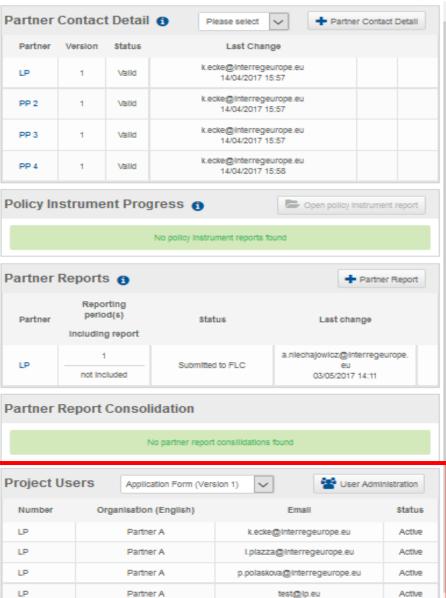
- LP can see all reports submitted to the LP by partners
- All editing of partner reports is done in this section

Partner Report Consolidation						
Partner Reporting period(s) Including report		Status	Last change			
			-			
PP 3	2	Included in joint report				
FF3	2	Included in joint report	24/05/2017 09:52			
DD 4	2	Doody for inclusion				
PP 4	not included	Ready for inclusion	24/05/2017 09:57			

Project users







Project users



- All partners can see all users (no FLCs listed here)
- Only the LP can add or remove users

Project Use	Application Form (Ver	rsion 1) V User Admin	User Administration		
Number	Organisation (English)	Email	Status		
LP	Partner A	k.ecke@interregeurope.eu	Active		
LP	Partner A	i.piazza@interregeurope.eu	Active		
LP	Partner A	p.polaskova@interregeurope.eu	Active		
LP	Partner A	test@lp.eu	Active		



PARTNER REPORT

Summary



Indicate the correct reporting period – impossible to change it later on

Summary	 Activities summary 	✓ Contact details	List of contracts	✓ Expenditure	 External expertise and services 	vices 🗸 Ed	quipment		
B Save	Submit to the FLC	Submit to the lead partner	er		Repo	orting period 1	~	Version 1 (Created)	~
Summary									

In the table below please select the reporting period(s) that you wish to include in this partner report.

Please note that if you include a specific reporting period in this report, it will be impossible to select it again in any other partner report. Please also note that it is possible to add another reporting period to an existing, open partner report. However, for technical reasons, moving the end date to an earlier point in time is not possible. If you accidentally choose a wrong end date, please delete the entire partner report from the Dashboard and recreate a new report with the corrected dates.

Project title	PNL
Project index number	PGI06264
Base application form version	Application form version 1
Partner name	Institute of Muggle Studies
Partner number	16-PP
Partner until	30/11/2020
Reporting period start date	Reporting period 1 (begins on 01/06/2017)
Reporting period end date	Reporting period 1 (ends on 30/11/2017)
Included in progress report	Not yet included in a progress report.
Certified by	

Activities summary



- Information for FLC
- It can be filled in the national language



Activities Summary

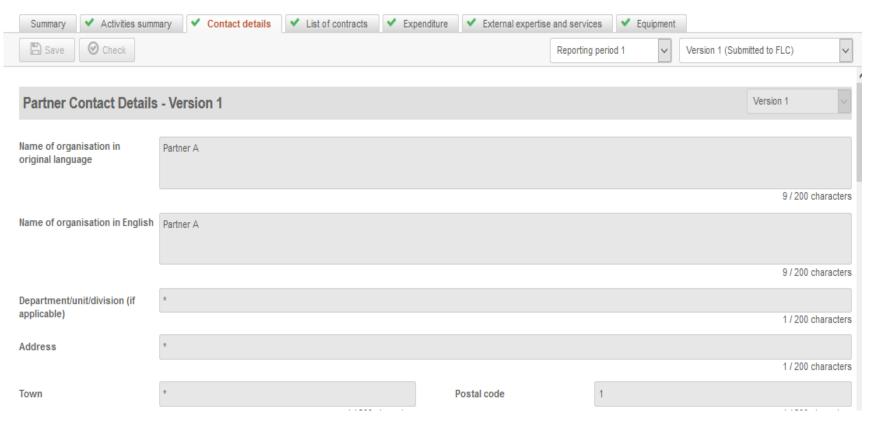
Please briefly describe the activities that have taken place in this reporting period

- Participation in 2 project meetings: 1 in Norway for the interregional workshop and site visit, 3 day round trip with the staff members ECKE, PIAZZA, NIECHAJOWICZ and stakeholders SMITH & MITCHEL, 1 steering group meeting in Brussels, participating staff member PIAZZA
- Continued work on the action plan development, update of the baseline study (included in supporting documents); several intermediate meetings with external service provider
- Production of the programme poster, put in the foyer of the department (visible to the general public, see picture included in supporting documents)
- 1 stakeholder group meeting: a total of 15 participants (see participants list included in supporting documents)
- Preparation of upcoming interregional workshop at the beginning of semester 2, at LP premises (agenda, public procurement for catering & transport etc., included in supporting documents)

Contact details



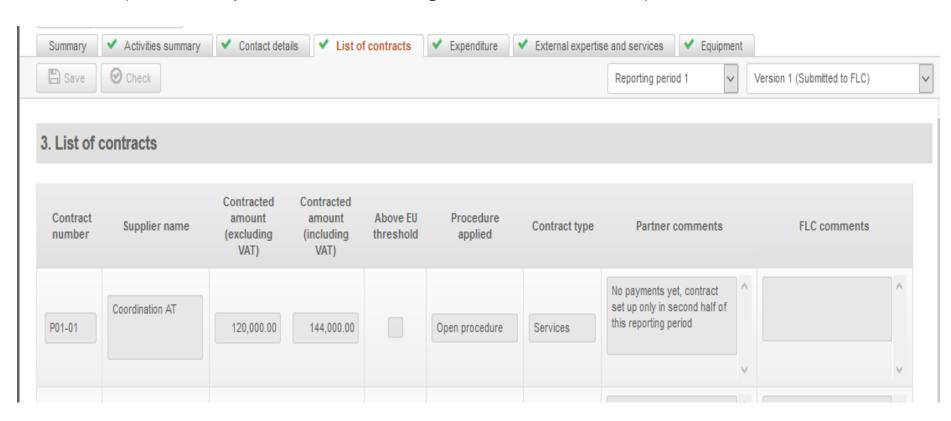
- Select the current version of contact details
- New version of contact details can be created in the 'Partner contact details' section



List of contracts

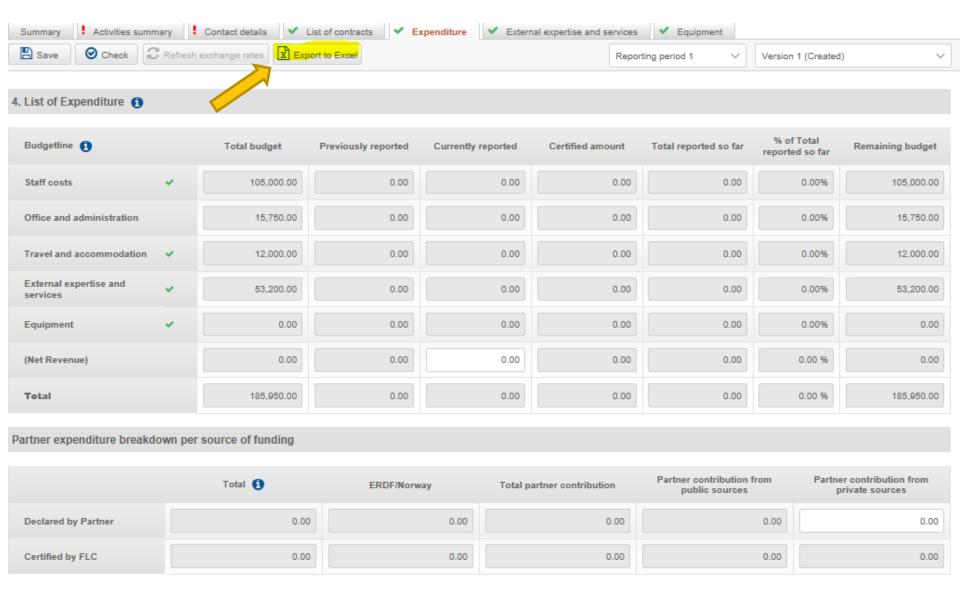


- Listing all contracts used for the implementation of the project (above & below EU thresholds)
- Listed contracts will reappear in next partner reports automatically (N.B. not possible to change it in future PRs!)



Expenditure

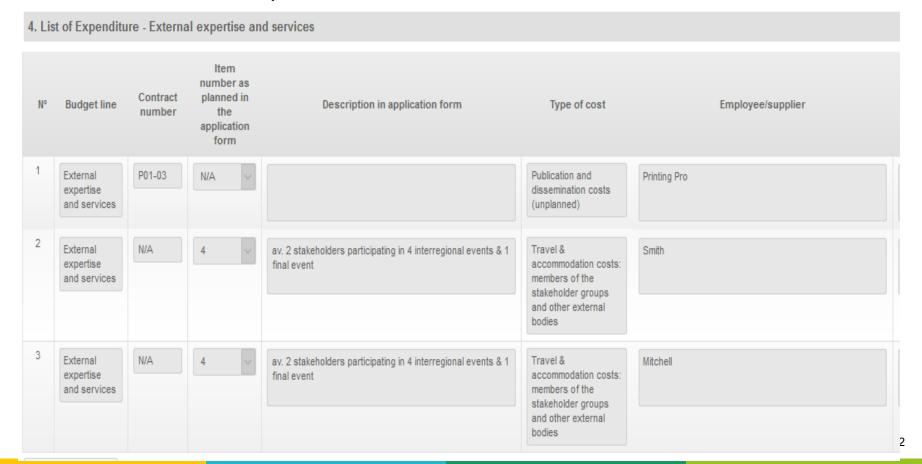




Example budget line (1/3)



- Link the T&A, external expertise and equipment expenditure with contracts listed in the list of contracts
- Link the external expertise and equipment expenditure with the relevant item planned in AF, section E.2



Example budget line (2/3)



 Exchange rate automatically calculated by the system (= exchange rate valid on the date of submission to the FLC)

Description	Document reference number	Date of invoice/document	Date of payment	Currency	Exchange rate	Gross amount declared (including VAT)
Printing project poster	4582 - DG	06/02/2018	09/02/2016	EUR	1.0000	56.00
Stakeholder participating in the interregional workshop & site visit in Norway	4689 - EX	17/05/2018	22/05/2018	EUR	1.0000	850.00
Stakeholder participating in the interregional workshop & site visit in Norway	4692 - EX	18/05/2018	21/05/2018	EUR	1.0000	850.00

Example budget line (3/3)



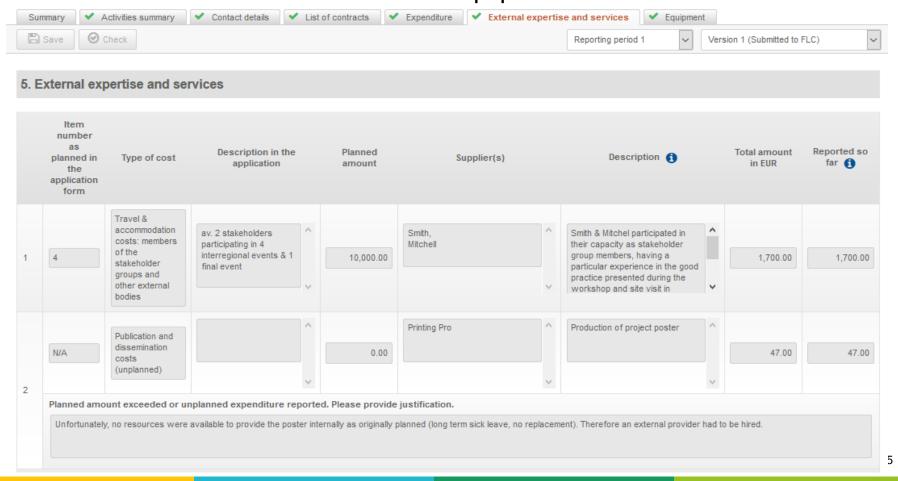
 Once report is certified by FLC, the "Total amount certified by FLC" will be visible

Check if VAT recoverable	VAT amount if recoverable	Total amound declared (including VAT if not recoverable)	Total amount declared in EUR	Total amount certified by FLC	In case of FLC correction, error related to
√	9.00	47.00	47.00	0.00	~
	0.00	850.00	850.00	0.00	~
	0.00	850.00	850.00	0.00	~

External expertise and services



 Individual items from the List of expenditure, listed in the External expertise budget line, are here merged into one item per indicated AF item. Same for equipment.



Help in filling the report



Info bubbles



Check button



Error messages

. Exchange rates need to be refreshed.

Video tutorials:

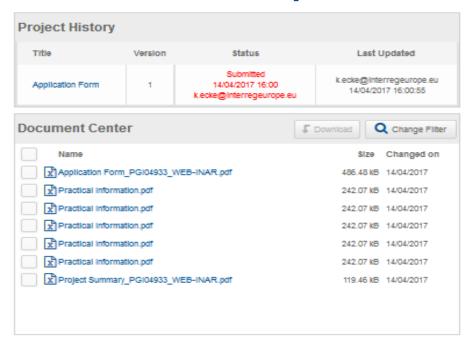
https://www.interregeurope.eu/projects/guidance/#reporting

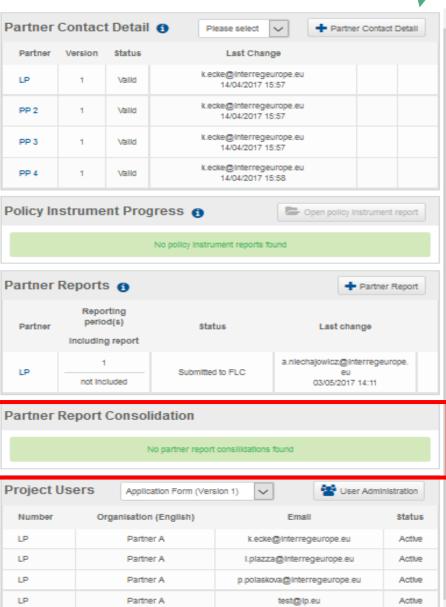


JOINT PROGRESS REPORT

Partner report consolidation







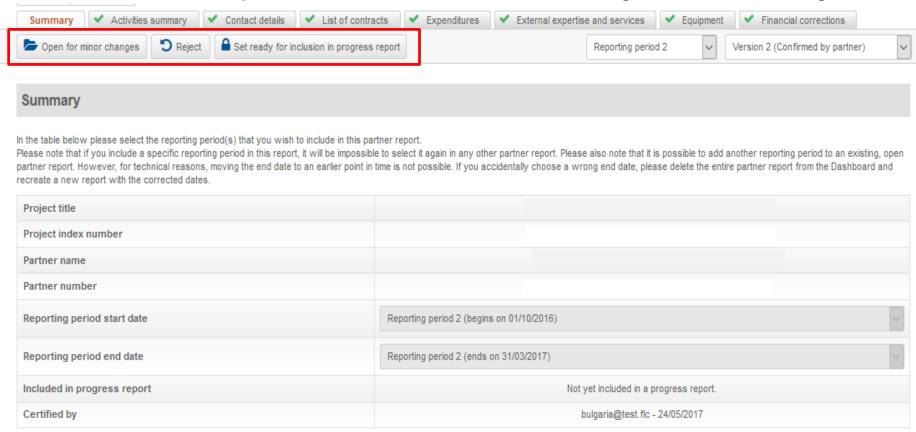


- LP can see only reports submitted to LP by partners (after FLC certified)
- All editing of partner report is done in this section

Partner Report Consolidation								
Partner	Reporting period(s)	Status	Last change					
	Including report							
PP 3	2	Included in joint report						
FF3	2	iliciaded ili joliit report	24/05/2017 09:52					
PP 4	2	Ready for inclusion						
PF 4	not included	Ready for inclusion	24/05/2017 09:57					

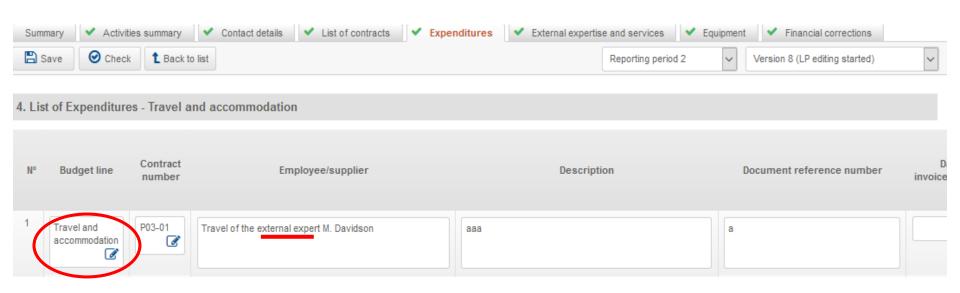


- Minor changes = the amount does not change
- Reject = sends report back to partner, requires re-certification
- Set ready for inclusion = blocks for editing before including in PR





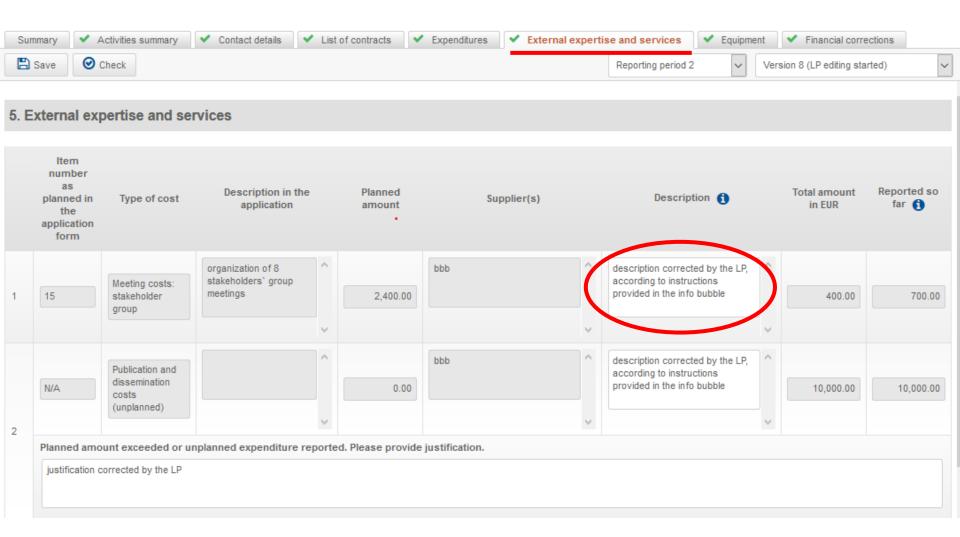
 Minor changes = the amount does not change, for instance: wrong budget line (except staff), incomplete item description, justification not sufficient, old contact details...



LP can correct the budget line, as long as it doesn't have impact on the amount certified by the FLC (FLC & PP are informed and agree)



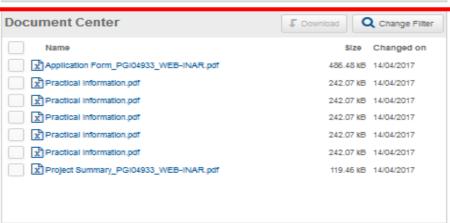
Prepare description of EE and equipment items for the joint PR

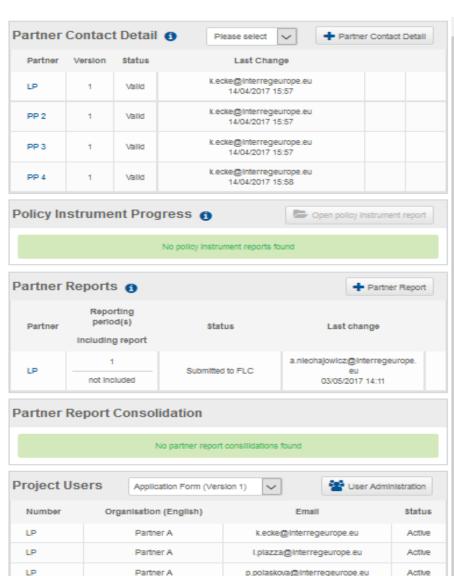


Joint PR









LP

Partner A

Active

test@lp.eu

Joint PR - Status

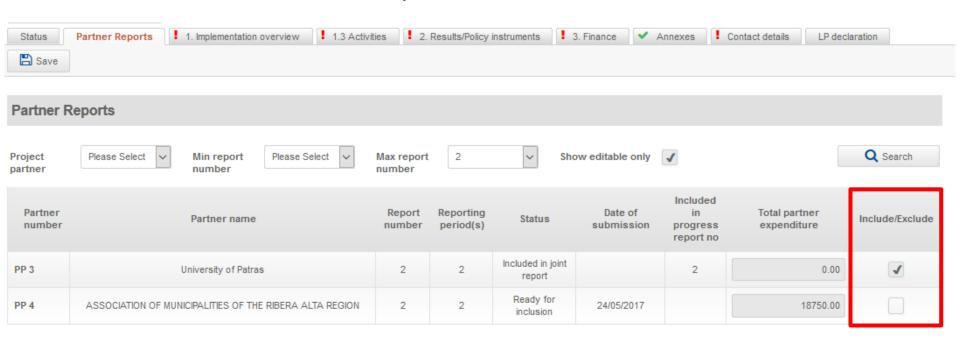


★ Home Status									
Status Partner Reports ! 1. Impleme	entation overview 1.3 Activities 2. Results/Policy instruments 3. Finance Annexes Contact details LP declaration								
Version 1									
Status of the current Progress Report	Open								
Reporting period	01/10/2016 to 31/03/2017								
ERDF amount reported in this reporting period	17,841.06								
History	PR 1 PR 2								

Joint PR – Partner reports



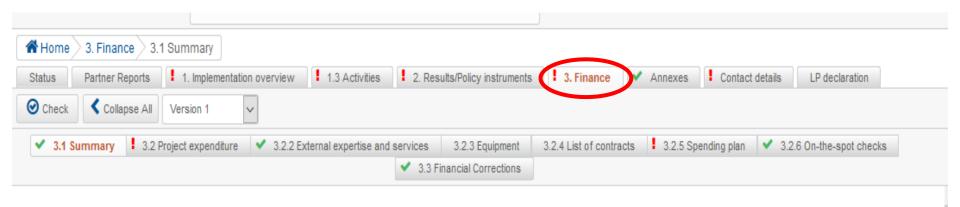
- List of partner reports
- Include = partner report data transferred to the joint PR
- Exclude = partner report data taken out from the joint PR
- Notifications sent to partner each time



Joint PR - Finance



- Finance tab several sections dedicated to financial reporting
- Most information transferred from partner reports included in the joint PR



Joint PR – Summary



3. Insight into project's finances
3.1 Project expenditure summary
▶ 3.1.1. Project expenditure by budget lines
3.1.2 Reported expenditure by partner
3.1.3 Reported expenditure by partner and funding rate
▶ 3.1.4 Budget breakdown per source of funding and partner
▶ 3.1.5 ERDF-/Norwegian funding
▶ 3.1.6 Partner contributions

Error messages in case expenditure exceeds 20% flexibility rule



- Table 3.1.1 row 2: The budget line Staff costs has been exceeded by more than 20 % in relation to the latest approved version of the application form. A request for change might be necessary. Please contact the Joint Secretariat.
- Table 3.1.1 row 3: The budget line Office and administration has been exceeded by more than 20 % in relation to the latest approved version of the application form. A request for change might be necessary. Please contact the Joint Secretariat.
- Table 3.1.1 row 8: The budget line Total budget has been exceeded by more than 20 % in relation to the latest approved version of the application form. A request for change might be necessary. Please contact the Joint Secretariat.
- Table 3.1.2 row 1: The budget of partner PP1 City of Katowice (PL) has been exceeded by more than 20 % in relation to the latest approved version of the application form. A request for change might be necessary. Please contact the Joint Secretariat.
- Table 3.1.5 row 3: The amount of ERDF funding has been exceeded in relation to the latest approved application form. Please amend the report accordingly.



Joint PR – Project expenditure



One or more partners did not report any expenditures. Please fill out the field 'If a partner does not report any expenditure, please state the reasons and indicate the measures that were taken to avoid this in the future.' below.



3.2. Project Expenditure

3.2.1 Budget breakdown per partner per budget line

	Partner name	Partner state	Staff costs	Office and administration	Travel and accommodation	External expertise and services	Equipment	Revenues	Total partner expenditure
PP1		■ BG	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PP2		■ RO	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PP3		≣ EL	7,999.56	1,199.93	890.00	10,900.00	0.00	0.00	20,989.49

Justification for partners not reporting expenditure

Changes from the original plans

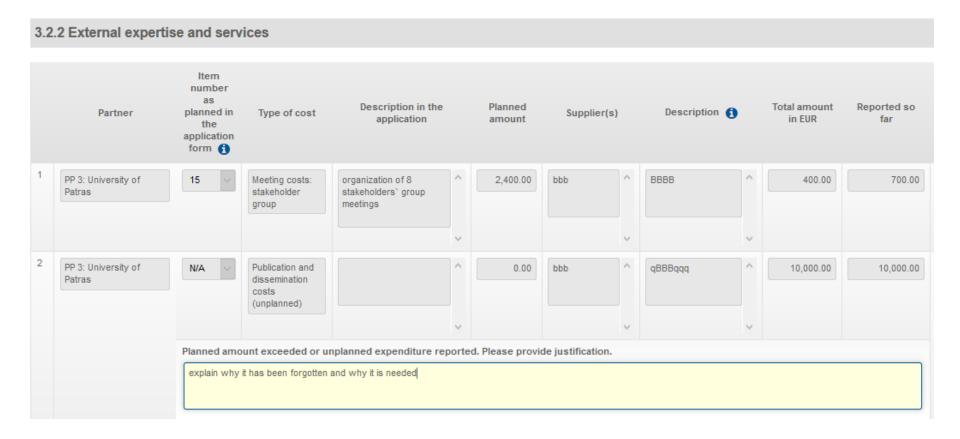
If a partner does not report any expenditure, please state the reasons and indicate the measures that were taken to avoid this in the future

0 / 3.000 characters

Joint PR – External e./ Equipment 🔧



External expertise and services tab / Equipment tab



Joint PR – List of contracts



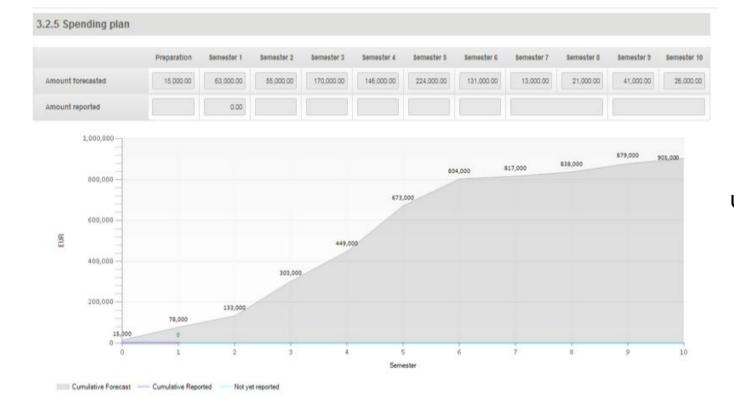
- Only above EU thresholds
- Transferred automatically from partner reports

3.2.4 List of contracts awarded subject to the provisions of EU public procurement directives

Number Partne	er Supplier name	Contracted amount (excluding VAT)	Contracted amount (including VAT)	Above EU Threshold	Procedure applied	Contract type	Reported amount in current report	Previously reported	Reported amount accumulated	Comments (optional)
---------------	------------------	--	--	-----------------------	----------------------	------------------	--	------------------------	-----------------------------------	------------------------

Joint PR - Spending plan





Justification if
overspend or
underspend (project
level + by
partners/budget
lines)



Changes from the original plans

If there is overspend or underspend in general on the project level (both accumulated and/or for the current report), please specify the reasons and the corresponding measures to correct this. Please provide information on any overspending or underspending in a budget line and/or in a partner's budget, stating the reasons and indicating the measures that were taken to avoid this in the future. Please also describe on a general level problems encountered and corresponding solutions found.

0 / 3.000 characters

Joint PR – On-the-spot check



Information taken from the control report incl. checklist of each partner

3.2.6 On-the-Spot Checks

Partner number	Partner name	Partner state	n° of On-the-spot check carried out for this report	Start dates 1	Total n° of on-the-spot checks carried out for this partner
PP1	Euroregion Pleven-Olt	■ BG	0		1
PP2	Harghita County Council	■ RO	0		0
PP3	University of Patras	≣ EL	1	19/04/2017	1
PP4	ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF THE RIBERA ALTA REGION	ES	0		1
PP5	FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION	Шп	0		0
PP6	Regional Development Agency of Gorenjska	■ SI	0		0
PP7	Foundation Saint Mary the Royal of Historic Heritage	ES	0		0
PP8	Estonian War Museum - General Laidoner Museum	≡ EE	0		0

Further information regarding the on-the-spot checks (if applicable)

0 / 3,000 characters

Joint PR – Annexes





Joint PR – Activities



Status	Partner Reports	1. Implement	ation overview	1.3 Activities	2. Resul	s/Policy instrument	s 3. Finar	ce 🗸 Anr	nexes !	Contact details	LP declar	ation
🖺 Save	e Oheck	Version 1	\overline{a}									
Main ou	tputs of the curre	ent reporting pe	eriod as origina	lly planned								
	of steering group and best practices; 100 co					ated progress rep	ort №1; 16 stake	holders` groups	s meetings; 5 ε	appearances in	the media; 1 the	ematic seminar; 2-3
Activitie	s which took pla	ce during the r	eporting period	0								
Describe in	detail the activities rel	ated to a) exchang	e of experience (pha	ase 1) or action p	olan implementati	on follow-up (phas	e 2), b) communi	cation and disse	emination and	c) project mana	igement.	
a) Exchang	e of experience											
b) Communi	ication and disseminat	ion										0 / 3,000 characters
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,												
c) Project m	nanagement											0 / 1,500 characters
												0 / 1,500 characters
_	s from the origina	-										
Describe ar	nd justify any changes	from the original w	ork plan and, in cas	e of delays, outli	ne the solutions	found to catch up v	with the foreseer	time plan.				
												0/4000

Joint PR – Contact details



- Transferred automatically from reports included in the joint PR
- If no partner report included in the joint PR, LP selects the current version of partner contact details

N°	Organisation	Country
√ 1	Partner A	■ AT
√ 2	Partner B	■ FR
√ 3	Partner C	₽ NO
✓ 4	Partner D	≝ EL

Joint PR – Lead partner declaration

Submit button Revert button Progress report LP declaration Status Partner Reports 1.3 Activities 2. Results 3. Finance Annexes Contact details LP declaration Revert Version 1

By clicking the "submit" button, the lead partner officially validates and submits the entire project progress report and confirms the following:

- 1. For this report the total paid and confirmed expenditure amounts to EUR 281,922.30.
- 2. The information included in the joint progress report accurately reflects the information provided by all partners and gives a correct description of the implementation of the project.
- 3. The expenditure reported by all partners and included in the progress report

Lead partner declaration

- a. exclusively relates to the implementation of the project as agreed between the partners and in line with the latest approved application form and subsidy contract;
- b. complies with the rules and obligations listed in the subsidy contract, including, but not limited to rules governing the eligibility of expenditure (in particular Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to specific rules on eligibility of expenditure for cooperation programmes, and any amendment and rules laid down in the latest version of the Interreg Europe programme manual);
- c. has been verified and confirmed by an authorised controller/control body in compliance with the control requirements of their EU Member State or of the Kingdom of Norway.

Automatically calculated



Time for questions...





PRACTICAL EXERCISE





3. How to manage the reporting process: benefit from experiences LPs and FLCs





4. Eligibility of expenditure



General principles

Different levels of rules

- European
- Programme
- National
- Partner



General principles

CONSISTENT

allocate the expenditure to the right budget line

JUSTIFIED

 unforeseen expenditure items or over/underspend needs to be justified

COHERENT

reported activities and finances have to match



General principles

Eligibility of costs is determined by the relevance of the activities!

Costs necessary to



- Carry out the project activities
- Achieve the project objectives

Eligibility period





Eligibility period from project approval by monitoring committee (e.g. 13 March 2018 for 3rd call) to project end date

Submission date of last report = project end date = end date of eligibility of costs



Administrative closure: last three months before project end date!





Share activities, not costs!

Contracting partner principle applies

Contracting partner = the only one reporting and receiving the ERDF!



Eligibility - points of attention

Prior approval from JS necessary for items not already specified and approved in the application form, e.g.

- Activities/travel outside the programme area
- Promotional material (e.g. gadgets)
- Equipment (additional office equipment)



Preparation costs

Lump sum of EUR 15,000 per project attributed to <u>lead partner</u>

- Covers costs linked to the <u>preparation of the application</u>
- Added <u>only</u> to the <u>reported lead partner's expenditure</u> in PR1
- Distribution among partners regulated internally by project partnership agreement – only lead partner reports to the programme!
- No supporting evidence required!



Budget lines

- Staff
- Administration costs
- Travel and accommodation
- Equipment

External expertise and services

Only for staff directly employed by the partner organisations

Staff costs (principles)





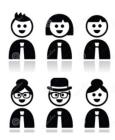


- For partner staff only (employment contract)
- Not for staff employed by other bodies even if
 - 100% owned by partner
 - seconded to partner
 - they are members (of association, umbrella organisation)
 - if seated in partner organisation

Programme manual section 7.2.1 & Delegated Regulation J) 481/2014, Article 3



Staff costs



- Costs for staff members employed by a partner organisation listed in application form and working on project
- Costs
 - = gross employment costs
 - = salary payment + taxes + social security contributions in line with employment policy of the partner organisation



Staff costs (calculation)

Four calculation methods:

- 1. full-time on project?
 - > Real cost charged
- 2. fixed % on project?
 - > % of real cost charged



- 3. flexible % on project?
 - > a) monthly salary / contractual hours or
 - > b) annual salary / 1,720 hours
- 4. hours + hourly rate fixed in contract?

Administration costs





- Flat rate of 15% of staff costs
- Includes: office rent, utilities, office supplies, general accounting etc.
- No administration costs under any other budget line
- No supporting evidence required!

Programme manual section 7.2.2 & Delegated Regulation (EU) 481/2014, Article 4

Travel and accommodation



BUDAPEST

THESSALONIK

LJUBLJANA

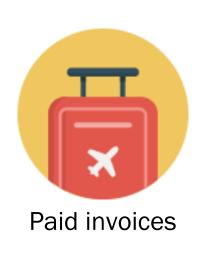
LILLE

- Only for staff employed by a project partner
- Non-staff travel costs: external expertise budget line!
- Includes items such as travel, meals, accommodation, visa, daily allowances
- Compliance with national and/or institutional rules
- ⚠ boarding passes + proofs of participation

Programme manual section 7.2.3 & Delegated Regulation (EU) 481/2014, Article 5



Travel & accommodation – Audit trail









Compliance with national / institutional rules

External expertise



 Services needed outside the partner organisation, incl. travel & accommodation for stakeholder groups

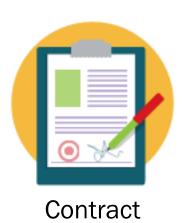


Compliance with public procurement rules

Programme manual section 7.2.4 & Delegated Regulation (EU) 481/2014, Article 6



External expertise – Audit trail









Paid invoices







Proof of payment



External expertise

Payment

- on basis of contracts or written agreements
- against invoices or requests for reimbursement





External expertise

For stakeholder travel:



- formalize their involvement in writing (e.g. invitation email, contract or written agreement)
- relevance / link with the policy instrument addressed
- terms for travel reimbursements



Equipment





- Purchased, rented or leased by a partner, to achieve the objectives of the project
- Mainly 'office equipment' for project management, not exceeding EUR 5,000-7,000 per project
- Only planned/pre-approved equipment eligible!



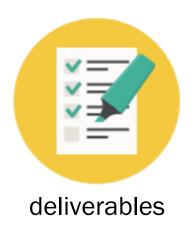
Compliance with public procurement rules

Programme manual section 7.2.5 & Delegated Regulation (EU) 481/2014, Article 7



Equipment – Audit trail

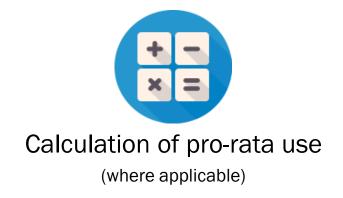






Paid invoices

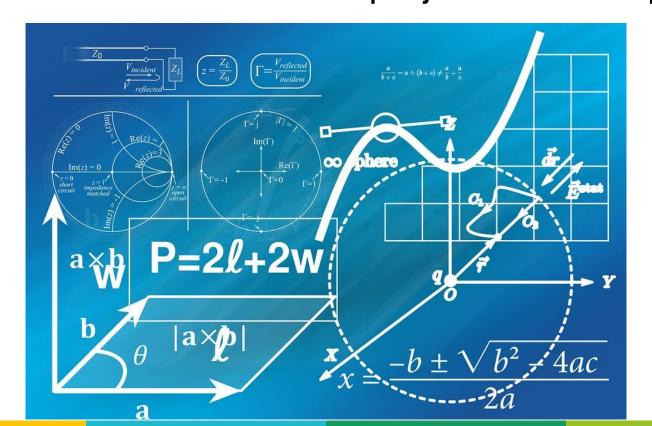






Equipment – Point of attention

• If equipment item only partially used for the project (or bought at late stage), only share related to the use in the project can be reported!





DEALING WITH CHANGES



Dealing with changes

■ Budget changes within the 20% budget flexibility rule = can be justified and reported as 'deviations' in the PR

• Budget reallocation above the 20% flexibility rule = MAJOR budget change >formal approval by the JS/MA through request for change procedure

Programme manual section 6.3.5



Dealing with financial changes

How to deal with small financial changes in the budget? **Flexibility rule!**



Programme manual section 6.3.5



The flexibility rule

 Budget line and partner's budget at project level (total!) can be exceeded by up to 20% of the original amount without formal approval by JS





The flexibility rule – Points of attention

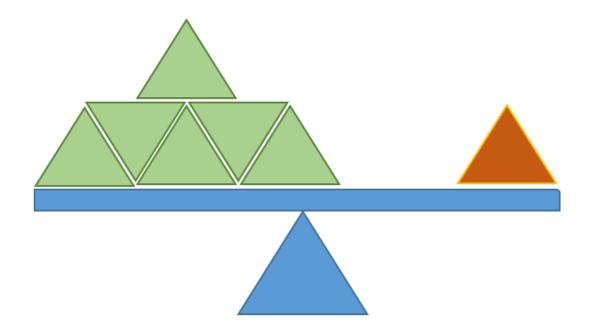
 total ERDF/Norwegian funding allocated to the project cannot be exceeded





The flexibility rule – Points of attention

 overspending of partners/in budget lines needs to be compensated by underspending of other partners/in budget lines





The flexibility rule – Points of attention

Deviations justified in the PR





The flexibility rule

Section E.1 of the application form - E.1 Budget breakdown per budget line and partner

External Preparation Office and Travel and Total partner Staff costs Partner expertise and Equipment Revenues costs administration accommodation budget services 15.000 33.000 10.000 0 . 301,000 60,000 9.000 37,500 0 126,500 22,665 17,000 86,600 3,000 0 151,100 280,365 94,500 14,175 17.000 24,800 0 150,475 17,400 0 0 116,000 11,000 29,685 174,085 152,980 22,947 20,500 56.293 0 252,720 125,000 18.750 23,500 97,250 0 264,500 0.97 % 59.34 % 8.90 % 8.52 % 22.08 % 0.19 % 0.00 % 919,580 15,000 137,937 132,000 342,128 3,000 1,549,645 Total

Total budget line amount!





Budget line at project level or partner budget	Original amount in the approved application form	Maximum possible overspending for this line
Travel and accommodation costs	EUR 132,000	EUR 26,400
Partner 2	EUR 126,500	EUR 25,300



The flexibility rule

 Lead partner to agree on the changes in cooperation with partnership

- Lead partner to keep an overview on all the budget changes → Problems may occur if budget flexibility not monitored closely
- JS to advice, but FLC responsible to confirm the eligibility of the costs





1. Financial reporting: what are the challenges?



1. REPORTING STAFF COSTS

Staff costs





- Costs for staff members employed by a partner organisation listed in application form and working on project
- Costs
 - = gross employment costs
 - = salary payment + taxes + social security contributions in line with employment policy of the partner organisation



Preliminary questions:

- What is the involvement of the staff member in the project activities?
- What does the contract say?





Four calculation methods:

- 1. full-time on project?
 - > Real cost charged
- 2. fixed % on project?
 - > % of real cost charged





- 3. flexible % on project?
 - > a) monthly salary / contractual hours or
 - > b) annual salary / 1,720 hours
- 4. hours + hourly rate fixed in contract?





- 1. full-time on project? > Real cost charged
- NO timesheet mission letter







2. fixed % on project?> % of real cost charged NO timesheet improvement in mission letter





HIGHLY recommended even for limited involvement



1 + 2 Full-time / fixed %

Calculation:



Employment cost * %

- Points of attention:
 - ✓ Regular review (e.g. annual staff appraisal)
 - √ % adjusted if necessary
- Simple calculation!





- 3. flexible % on project?
 - a> monthly salary / contractual hours
 - b> annual salary / 1,720
- Timesheet required



100% Time registration

Document showing calculation of hourly rate



Risk of errors in calculation





3.a Flexible % - monthly calculation

Calculation of an hourly rate:



Monthly gross employment costs

No. hours per month per employment documents

- Points of attention:
 - ✓ Contract or equivalent document identifying working time + holidays
 - ✓ Payslip documenting monthly salary costs
 - ✓ Holiday allocation
 - Recalculation potentially each month!





3.b Flexible percentage - 1720h method

Calculation of an hourly rate:



Latest annual gross employment cost

1720

- Points of attention:
 - √ Payslip documenting <u>annual</u> salary costs
 - ✓ Person recently employed? → annual salary from equivalent position/extrapolation
 - ✓ Document identifying the latest annual salary costs
 - √ Person on part-time contract> Pro-rata



4. hours on project> hourly rate

- hourly rate fixed in employment contract
- used in specific partner states
- timesheet required

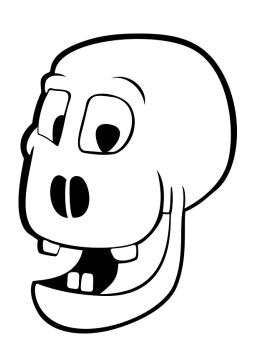


100% Time registration

Special national rules might apply (NL + BE-VL)



Eligible or not eligible in Interreg Europe...?



That 's the question...!





Indirect staff costs?







Bonus + lunch vouchers?





Eligible or not eligible?

Private pension schemes?





Eligible or not eligible?

Person seconded and paid by another entity?





Time for questions...





ROLE PLAY

1+2 Full-time / fixed % - Mission letter



- Name of employee
- Role in the project
- % allocated to the project
- Description of project related role, responsibilities and monthly tasks (see application form)
- Dated and signed by employee + line manager
- Regularly reviewed (e.g. staff appraisal) and adjusted if needed

1+2 Full-time / fixed %



Is the % plausible?

- in relation to the employee's role
- in the project?
- in relation to other costs
- declared (e.g. travel)?
- in relation to the FLC's knowledge from controlling other projects?



1+2 Full-time / fixed %



Is the person involved in another project?

- No double-financing?
- Coherence supporting documents

The budget is the (natural) limit!



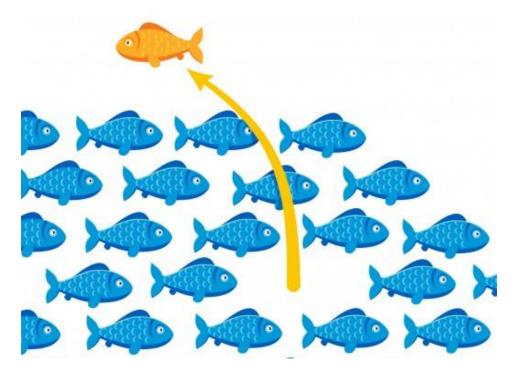
2 Fixed %



Method 2 can be used even when the staff member's involvement in the project is limited



Set a fixed percentage even if small



2 Fixed %





Easier



More secure for staff costs reporting >possible impact also on office and administration flat rate

Simplification is also what YOU make of it!



PRACTICAL EXERCISE





Thank you!







2. COMPLYING AND CONTROLLING PUBLIC PROCUREMENT RULES



Basics

- Public procurement applicable rules*
 - the EU public procurement directives (Directive 2014/24/EU)
 - national rules
 - internal rules of the partner organization
- No programme-specific rules
 - Section 7.4.6 Public procurement of the programme manual



* The strictest rules must always be applied in case of doubts, check with your procurement department



Private non-profit bodies

- The private non-profit bodies
 - have to respect national rules and internal partner rules (if they exist),
 - have to be able to demonstrate good use of public funds,
 - in some countries need to comply with national public procurement rules.



If not sure, contact your national point of contact!



Procurement and reporting

- FLC checks compliance with public procurement rules
 - see: first level control report incl. checklist (section 5.
 Public procurement)
- List of contracts to be filled in by each partner
 - see: list of expenditure incl. list of contracts in iOLF
- List of contracts subject to EU procurement directives
 - Automatically compiled in the progress report from partner reports



Common procurement findings

- Inadequate procedure chosen (e.g. direct award of contract not justified)
- Insufficient publicity
- Value of the contract not estimated at institutional level
- Splitting the contracts to fit below thresholds
- Insufficient audit trail (e.g. missing documents)



Direct award of contract

Common non-justified reasons:

"urgency"

"more economic

– no cost for

training new

person"

"the only one"

"good value (based on old comparison)"

- Direct award for these reasons is rarely justified
- Objective reasons needed (the market should prove)



GROUP DISCUSSION





3. Lead Partner responsibilities – checking/following up partner reports



A FEW REMINDERS

Reporting procedure - Main steps

PPs send their certified partner reports to the LP through iOLF.



The partner report includes:

- First level control certificate
- Control report including checklist
- Certified list of expenditure including the list of contracts
- PP's activity report



Lead partner's responsibilities

The LP consolidates the partner reports in the joint progress report, checking that the reporting complies with the minimum requirements:

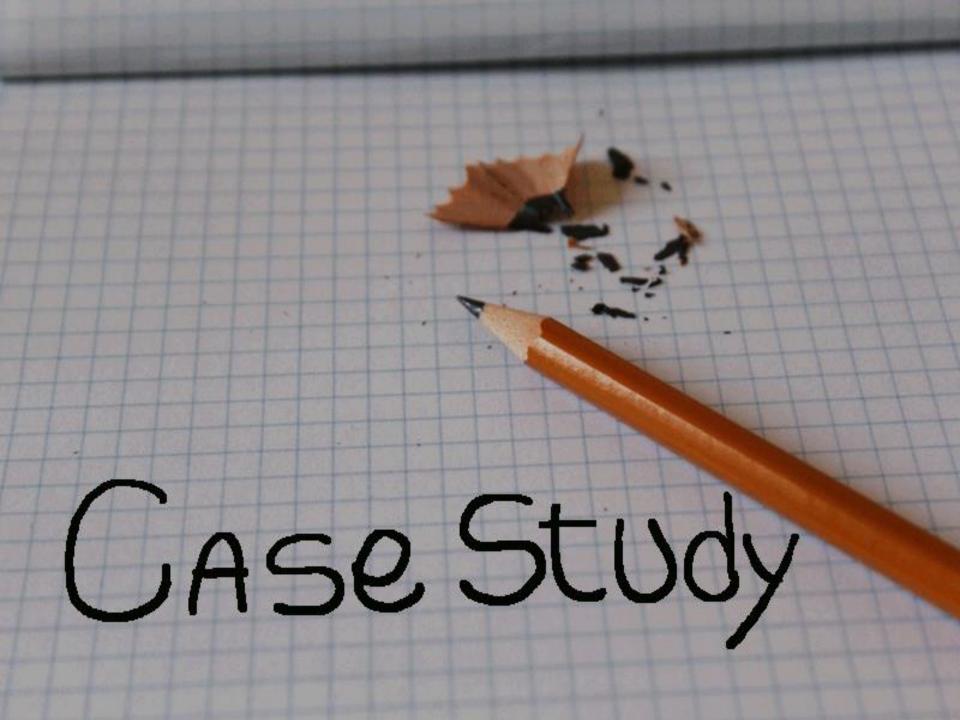
- the expenditure is related to the project and corresponds to the activities in the application form
- the partner expenditure certified by a controller is in line with national control requirements (first level control certification)



Lead partner's responsibilities

Check on the basis of:

- project partner reports and outputs,
- independent first level controller's certification,
- independent first level control reports (incl. control checklist),
- certified list of expenditure incl. list of contracts



You as lead partner have received through iOLF the partner report from PP2:

- The list of expenditure
- The list of contracts
- The external expertise section of the partner report
- The FLC control report incl. checklist

To help you in your task, we also provide you with the **external expertise and equipment section of the application form**.

Check the documents and see if you notice anything that would lead to:

- a) a new certification of the partner report by the FLC
- a revision of the partner report by the LP before including it in the joint PR
- c) a clarification from your side to the concerned PP and their FLC,
- d) a comment from your side for future reporting.



Conclusions









Do not re-do the work of the FLC!
 Check plausibility and coherence.

In case of doubts, get back to your partners and ask for explanations

If you don't understand it → other externals (JS, EC auditors, second level auditors) will not understand it.



 Screen the list of expenditure, list of contract, control report, including checklist
 Focus on obvious points (e.g. right budget line, link to project).

Anticipate potential corrections to make
 Adopt a clear timeline to avoid last minute rush



Keep the AF at hand!
 The info included there is your reference for reporting

Make information self-explanatory and sufficient!
 Keep in mind that the JS does not participate to your project's activities



Questions?

Any suggestions from your experience?

