



Project Training Days

Day 1: Financial reporting

26 September 2023

Interreg Europe training days for 1st call projects Lille, France



Agenda of the day

09:30-11:00	Basic reporting principles, legal framework and verification of expenditure		
11:00-11:30	Coffee break		
11:30-12:45	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
	Eligibility of expenditure	Reporting in the Portal	External expertise and services etc.
	(Flex 4 / R-1)	(Workplace 1)	(Verrière)
12:45-14:15	Lunch break		
14:15-15:30	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
	External expertise and services etc.	Eligibility of expenditure	Reporting in the Portal
	(Verrière)	(Flex 4 / R-1)	(Workplace 1)
15:30-16:00	Coffee break		
16:00-17:15	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
	Reporting in the Portal	External expertise and services etc.	Eligibility of expenditure
	(Workplace 1)	(Verrière)	(Flex 4 / R-1)
17:15	Networking cocktail		

Meet the finance and audit team



Petra Geitner

Head of Unit - Finances & Audit



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Coordinator - Programme Finances



Ilaria Piazza

Coordinator - Project Finances



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Finance Control & Audit Officer



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Senior Finance Officer



Alexis François

Senior Finance Officer



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Finance Officer



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Finance Officer



Anne Rocheteau

Finance Officer



Ségolène Jean

Finance Officer



Rūta Ročāne

Finance Officer



Feodora Braconne

Senior Projects & Finance Assistant

What will you get from today?



Understand financial reporting and control procedures work



Practice with case studies



Ask your questions



Exchange with financial managers and controllers of other projects

Main terminology & abbreviations

- JS = joint secretariat
- MA = Managing Authority
- MC = Monitoring Committee
- LP = lead partner
- PP = project partner
- APA = Associated policy authority
- PR = progress report
- Portal = programme's monitoring system

https://www.interregeurope.eu/glossary-terms



Content of the presentation

- 1. Reporting procedures and legal framework
- 2. Eligibility of expenditure
- 3. Reporting in the online monitoring system (Portal)





Reporting procedures and legal framework

26 September 2023

Interreg Europe training days Lille, France







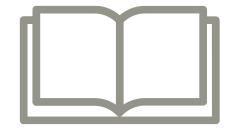




Legal framework

Recommended reading

- Subsidy contract
- Programme manual (latest version)
- Regulation (EU) No 1059/2021 (Interreg regulation)
- Regulation (EU) No 1060/2021 (Common provision regulation)
- Regulation (EU) No 1058/2021 (ERDF regulation)
- EU Directive on public procurement



Eligibility period and eligibility principles

Eligibility period

Eligibility period from project approval

- by the monitoring committee (13 Dec 2022)
- to the project end date (31 May 2027)



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

Reporting periods and deadlines

Progress report	Reporting period	Deadline for submission
First (= PR1)	13/12/2022 (*) – 31/08/2023	01/12/2023 (= 3 months after the end of the reporting period)
PR2	01/09/2023 – 28/02/2024 (six months)	01/06/2024
PR3	01/03/2024 – 31/08/2024 (six months)	01/12/2024
PR4	01/09/2024 – 28/02/2025 (six months) Midterm review	01/06/2025
PR5	01/03/2025 – 31/08/2025 (six months)	01/12/2025
PR6	01/09/2025 – 28/02/2026 (six months)	01/06/2026
PR7	01/03/2026 – 31/08/2026 (six months)	01/12/2026
Last (= PR8)	01/09/2026 – 31/05/2027 (**) (nine months)	31/05/2027 (= end of the project = end date of eligibility)

Eligibility period



 It is not possible to include costs that have been paid out after the end of the reporting period of a progress report



 It is possible to include costs paid in a previous reporting period in a progress report (e.g. staff costs of the last months of the previous reporting period)

Reminder

Only partners that have signed the **partnership agreement** can report costs!



Reporting process

General principles

General principles

Different levels of rules

- European: EU Regulations
- Programme
- National
- Partner/ institutional

General principles

CONSISTENT

the expenditure allocated to the right cost category



JUSTIFIED

unforeseen expenditure items or over/ underspending 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



Points of attention

Prior **approval from JS** necessary for items not already specified and approved in the application form

For example:

- Activities/ travel outside the programme area
- Equipment
- Infrastructure and works

Reporting process

Verification of expenditure

Regulatory requirements for control system

The organisation of control systems



Partner State responsibility

Legal basis:

Art. 74 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1060

Art. 46 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059

The different control systems

Centralised control

Belgium (Brussels + Wallonia), Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Luxemburg, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Sweden

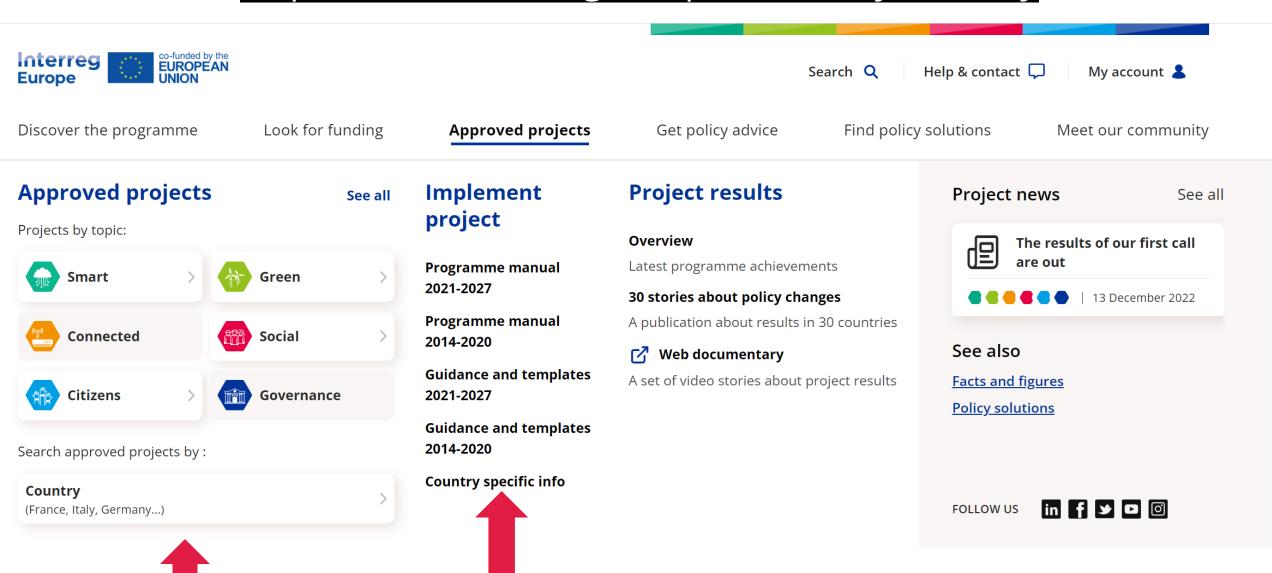
Decentralised control

Austria, Belgium (Flanders), Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal (+ validation), Spain (+ validation)

Directly **appointed by Control body**

Controller needs to be contracted by the PP and approved by Approbation body (sometimes there is shortlist)

https://www.interregeurope.eu/in-my-country



What do controllers check?

- Partnership agreement signed (in 1st PR)
- The list of expenditure is complete (descriptions are clear and self explanatory, in English, 1 cost per line, etc.)
- Contracts and procedures
- Proof of delivery and payment of services and products
- Invoices and all supporting documents comply with programme's, national and EU rules
- All costs are in line with activities reported

Where do controllers check?

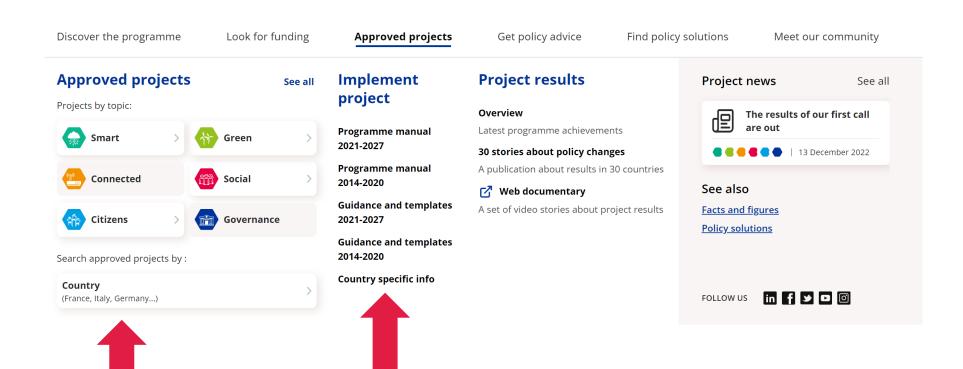
- List of Expenditure section in partner's financial report
- Upload all supporting documents on **Portal** → **online**



- Potentially 1 On-the-spot-check in the project lifetime
- No need to send paper version

Controller's access to Portal

Access granted by the national Control/Approbation body



How do controllers check?

The controller certifies the expenditure and fills in Portal:

Control checklist and report





Control certificate



Appendix 3 of programme manual (templates)

+ additional step for validation for Spain and Portugal



Sample methodology

Made through Portal



- Sample:
 - 10 lines in staff costs 1 cost per line (1 month = 1 line)
 - 10 lines from other costs categories

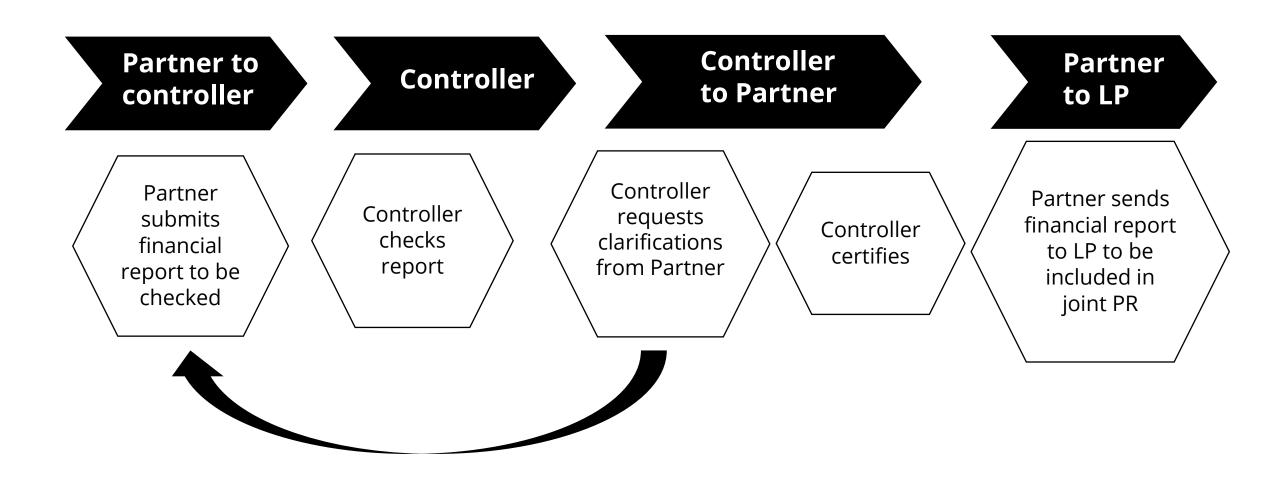
Guidance

For the period 2021-2027, the control of expenditure reported by partners is risk-based. The programme risk-based methodology is available here.



Controller may extend the sample and check all items

Sum-up control process



Keep in mind!

Make best use of the time!

You can already:

- Fill in your report
- Have your controller selected with access to Portal
- Monitor your partners' advancement and support them to get ready on time!

Reporting process

• Lead partner's responsibilities

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

Including financial reports in the progress report

The LP consolidates the financial reports in the **joint progress report**

→ The expenditure is already certified by a controller (in line with national control requirements)



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

Role of the lead partner in the reporting



The LP checks that:

- each financial report is clear enough
 - → i.e. descriptions = concrete and self-explanatory
- the expenditure is **related to the project** and corresponds to the activities in the application form

Lead partner's role in reporting process

After the submission of the progress report, the LP:

→ answers to the list of **clarification requests** sent by the JS

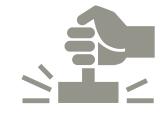
Lead partner's role in reporting process

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.

Reporting procedure

- LP compiles financial reports into a joint progress report (PR)
- 2. LP submits PR to Joint Secretariat (JS)
- 3. JS checks and sends back clarification requests
- 4. LP submits revised PR and replies to the clarifications
- 5. JS approves PR when all requests clarified
- 6. Accounting body transfers ERDF to LP (1 month)
- 7. LP transfers ERDF to partners quickly





Audit policy

Audit and anti-fraud policy

Quality checks and 2nd level audits

Second Level Auditors







National checks

What is **fraud**?

Irregularity

Error/mistake



Fraud

Intentional

Correction

-

Correction

+ Investigation

What is fraud?

IRREGULARITY	FRAUD
Reported same invoice twice	Charged invoice for goods not received/for personal gain
Error in the calculation of staff costs	Staff costs claimed for 80% while only 30% actually worked on the project
Travel costs of director reported as stakeholder travel costs	Travel costs of staff members systematically reported as stakeholder travel costs
Tendering process did not fully comply with all the requirements	Terms of reference drafted so that only one particular company can meet the requirements

Anti-fraud strategy

Main risks identified in our programme:

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

Ref. Programme Manual sections

- 6.9 Anti fraud policy

- 6.5 Preventing fraud in public procurement

Fraud risks

Fraud risks may be at the level of:

- the beneficiary staff
- the external contractors
- collusion between the two
- JS / staff (conflict of interest, corruption...)
- conflict of interest policy has to be in place

How can the MA/JS be informed?

Whistleblowing email for general public/beneficiaries

lanceur.alertes@hautsdefrance.fr



 Controller reports to JS audit officer - template available on website (Appendix 4 in Programme Manual)

www.interregeurope.eu/anti-fraud-policy

Further potential measures



- Police investigation
- National court



5.

Monitoring project budget

The 20% flexibility rule

→For minor changes in the project budget

Check out our <u>tutorial video</u>

Find more information in section 5.3.7 of the programme manual

Exercise

PP03 asks if they can bring two additional staff of their APA to the kick off, as the control cost will be lower than expected. You

- a) Check with the JS if this change is ok
- b) Say yes because it is a minor & clearly justified reallocation
- c) Say no because it's not in line with the flexibility rule

b) Say yes because it is a minor & clearly justified reallocation

PP05 wants to shift € 28,000 from staff to external expertise and services to finance local training activities for their staff and produce a study. You

- a) Ask more information on the added value of these activities for the project + double check with JS in case of doubts
- b) Say yes because it is a minor reallocation + they have budget available
- c) Say no (not in line with the flexibility rule)

	Partner	Preparation	Staff	Office & Administration	Travel & accommodation	External expertise and services	Equipment	Total	ERDF
	LP01	17,500	174,800	26,220	26,220	98,000	750	343,490	274,792
	PP02		146,950	22,042	22,042	45,000		236,034	188,827
	PP03		107,850	16,177	16,177	65,000	1,000	206,204	164,963
Z	AP04		125,000	18,750	18,750	58,000		220,500	176,400
	PP05		108,000	16,200	16,200	89,500		229,900	183,920
	PP06		159,645	23,947	23,947	15,000		222,539	178,031
	PP07		164,000	24,600	24,600	56,000		269,200	215,360
	Total	17,500	986,245	147,936	147,936	426,500	1,750	1,727,867	1,382,294

a) Ask more information on the added value of these activities for the project + double check with JS in case of doubts

PP07 wants to purchase an online video conferencing software tool and a laptop, for a total amount of € 1,350. You

- a) Check with the JS if this unplanned equipment can be accepted
- b) Say yes to this minor re-allocation
- c) Say no because PP07 has no equipment budget

Partner	Preparation	Staff	Office & Administration	Travel & accommodation	External expertise and services	Equipment	Total	ERDF
LP01	17,500	174,800	26,220	26,220	98,000	750	343,490	274,792
PP02		146,950	22,042	22,042	45,000		236,034	188,827
PP03		107,850	16,177	16,177	65,000	1,000	206,204	164,963
AP04		125,000	18,750	18,750	58,000		220,500	176,400
PP05		108,000	16,200	16,200	89,500		229,900	183,920
PP06		159,645	23,947	23,947	15,000		222,539	178,031
PP07		164,000	24,600	24,600	56,000		269,200	215,360
Total	17,500	986,245	147,936	147,936	426,500	1,750	1,727,867	1,382,294

a) Check with the JS if this unplanned equipment can be accepted

Equipment must be planned in the application form or should be preapproved by the JS!

AP04 expects to exceed their budget by € 30,000 at the end of the project. You

- a) Say yes because it does not exceed 20% flexibility rule
- b) Say no because 20% flexibility rule is exceeded
- c) Ask AP04 to justify this overspending and check if it can be compensated by other partner(s) underspending

Partner	Preparation	Staff	Office & Administration	Travel & accommodation	External expertise and services	Equipment	Total	ERDF
LP01	17,500	174,800	26,220	26,220	98,000	750	343,490	274,792
PP02		146,950	22,042	22,042	45,000		236,034	188,827
PP03		107,850	16,177	16,177	65,000	1,000	206,204	164,963
AP04		125,000	18,750	18,750	58,000		220,500	176,400
PP05		108,000	16,200	16,200	89,500		229,900	183,920
PP06		159,645	23,947	23,947	15,000		222,539	178,031
PP07		164,000	24,600	24,600	56,000		269,200	215,360
Total	17,500	986,245	147,936	147,936	426,500	1,750	1,727,867	1,382,294

c) Ask AP04 to justify this overspending and check if it can be compensated by other partner(s) underspending

€ 63.000 should be shifted from PP03 to partner PP02 because PP02 had to take over many tasks from PP03. Does this budget shift have to be approved by the JS/MA through a formal request for change?

- a) YES
- b) NO

Partner	Preparation	Staff	Office & Administration	Travel & accommodation	External expertise and services	Equipment	Total	ERDF
LP01	17,500	174,800	26,220	26,220	98,000	750	343,490	274,792
PP02		146,950	22,042	22,042	45,000		236,034	188,827
PP03		107,850	16,177	16,177	65,000	1,000	206,204	164,963
AP04		125,000	18,750	18,750	58,000		220,500	176,400
PP05		108,000	16,200	16,200	89,500		229,900	183,920
PP06		159,645	23,947	23,947	15,000		222,539	178,031
PP07		164,000	24,600	24,600	56,000		269,200	215,360
Total	17,500	986,245	147,936	147,936	426,500	1,750	1,727,867	1,382,294

a) YES

PP02 budget excess is above flexibility rule, 20% of PP02 budget € 236,034 = € 47,206

- LP is responsible to monitor budget reallocations requested by partners
- 20% limit applies to partner budget
- Total ERDF/NO funding can never be exceeded
- LP can agree to minor changes if clearly justified (no need to check with JS)

- Budget reallocations even if below flexibility rule must be needed for the project & clearly justified
- LP should check with JS if reallocation is significant/not clearly justified/doubts (=> avoid problems when reporting)
- Application form revision (request for change) only for reallocation above flexibility rule

Project's mid-term review

What?

→ A meeting between the JS and the LP

When?

→In the first semester of 2025

Why?

- → Discuss the state of play of policy improvement
- → Discuss the spending rate of the project
- →Discuss whether the project is requesting a pilot action or not

Project's mid-term review

In case of **significant underspending** faced by the project:

- → discuss whether the project will be able to spend its total budget or not
- → if not, it may lead to a budget reduction proportional to the amount of underspending

Funds returned to the programme will be used to support other activities

Project partners not reporting costs

Partners not reporting any expenditure after 2 semesters:

- JS issues a warning to LP and informs the Partner State
- If no costs reported in third PR + not due to circumstances outside its control = project partner's budget reduced taking into account its spending plan
- If budget reduction = will be implemented after the midterm review meeting

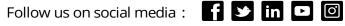




Eligibility of expenditure

26 SEPTEMBER 2023 | 95 Minutes

Training Days - Mastering Financial reporting Lille, France













Focus on staff costs, flat rates & External expertise and services

Staff costs

- 1) Only one staff cost reporting method → fixed percentage
- 2) Supporting documents (task assignment letter, employment document, payslips, proof of payment)
- 3) Entry in the Portal is by month (monthly gross employment cost × % set in task assignment letter)

- → Regulation (EU) No 2021/1060 Article 55(5)
- →Section 6.2.1 of the programme manual

Administrative costs & travel costs

15% of staff costs automatically received as a flat rate for admin costs and for travel costs



Two points of attention:

- 1) No supporting documents needed for the control, but the controller needs to know the activities carried out, including trips which are still expected to happen!
- 2) Admin and travel costs not to be reported elsewhere in the report.
- → Section 6.2.2 & 6.2.3 of the programme manual

Eligibility – External expertise and services

External expertise and service costs = expenditure paid, based on contracts or written agreements, and related invoices or requests for reimbursement to external service providers who are subcontracted to carry out certain tasks or activities linked to delivering the project.

- → Regulation (EU) No 2021/1059 Article 42
- →Section 6.2.4 of the programme manual

Exercise

- Your job is to decide as a small group on a **credible percentage** to set for each of the 4 employees and fill in accordingly their task assignment letter.
- Based on the % chosen, eligible staff costs for each employee should be **calculated** and indicated in the table in the grey cells.
- Your job is also to focus on the eligibility aspect of external expertise costs.



Some elements will be or have been tackled in more details in other sessions (e.g. Portal, External expertise and services...)

Wrap-up – task assignment letter - Ashwasha

- in charge of two projects, including Electri-Cities where the agency has the role of LP
- attends all project meetings in person (rarely online)
- supervises the work of her colleagues in drafting deliverables
- collects all the information necessary to fill the activities and results part of the PR

→ Approx. 75% suggested

Wrap-up – task assignment letter - Liam

- Works on several projects
- gathers all supporting documents
- leads all public procurement procedures
- fills in the financial side of the report and if needed, he is in touch with the controller
- looks into the certified reports of the other partners
- is available for assisting the partners and contributes to the clarification process

→ Approx. 25% suggested

Wrap-up – task assignment letter - Milena

- supervises the work of her team (LP = COM leader)
- is often involved in the production of the communication materials and website production
- preparation of final event
- → Approx. 30% suggested

Wrap-up – task assignment letter - Roberto

- low involvement in the project activities (attends some events when relevant, gets weekly information about all projects the Agency is involved in)

→ 0-5% suggested

	External expertise and		Office supplies (pens and post-it)
5	services	N/A	
			I

- →Office supplies are covered by the office and administrative cost category = 15% of the reported staff costs
 - → Regulation (EU) No 2021/1059 Article 40
 - → Section 6.2.2 of the programme manual



2 cost categories are a 15% flat rate of the staff costs!

7	External expertise and	Partner meeting 2 (Donegal 21/06/2023) - promotional		
	services	14	materials - USB sticks with logo of the project	

- →Strict programme's approach on promotional gadgets or giveaways
 - →Only in exceptional cases when added-value for project's communication objectives is strongly demonstrated



Prior approval of the joint secretariat needed!



→ Costs for **awards** and **prizes** granted or given at competitions organised by project partners are **not eligible**

			Travel and accommodation costs for 3 persons attending the kick-off meeting in Florence: Mr Smith (stakeholder), Mrs Kelly (stakeholder), Mrs O'Sullivan
	External expertise and		(partner): airport parking fees, flight tickets, hotel rooms
10	services	13	for 2 nights

→Travel and accommodation costs for staff employed by the partner organisation = "travel and accommodation" cost category



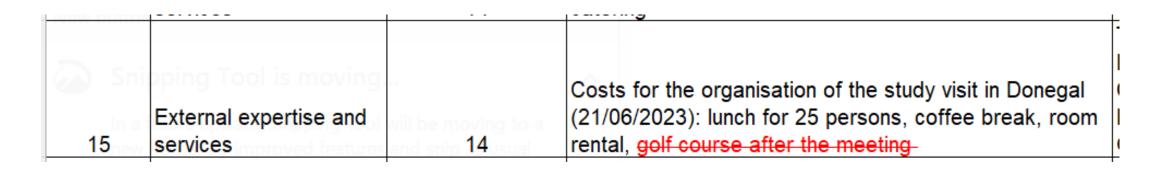
Partners who selected the flat rate for travel and accommodation costs do not report as real costs (= covered by the 15% flat rate)



- →Interreg Europe mostly funds activities linked to the exchange of experience between partners at the policy level
- → No implementation-oriented activities unless approved in a pilot action

42	External expertise and		Paid article - promotion of the project objectives and		
	13	services	11	results	l

- →Strict programme's approach on paid articles:
 - →media presence of a project = successful communication strategy, not a paid campaign
- → Accepted in exceptional cases if **justified + pre-approved** by JS



→ activities of a purely touristic/entertaining character = not eligible to ERDF

17	External expertise and		50% of the invoice for catering services shared with PP4 - organisation of the Kick-off meeting in Florence	
11	External expertise and			
	services	N/A	(25/04/2023)	

→No shared costs!

One contracting partner = <u>budgets</u>, <u>pays</u>, <u>reports</u> **100% of the cost item** and receives the related ERDF



→ Postal services are also office and administrative expenditure Cf. Regulation (EU) No 2021/1059 Article 40

Wrap-up – task assignment letter

Key messages to take away:

- Find a plausible average, based on an estimation of the involvement of the staff member during the entire project. **For simplification!**
- Task assignment letter usually signed before the end of the reporting period it applies to.
- % ideally not changed frequently but only upon a change of responsibilities of the staff member or after annual staff appraisal.
- The higher the percentage and involvement of the staff member, the higher the level of details of the tasks in the task assignment letter.
- If you realize that the involvement is very low, consider carefully if it is worth it to draft the letter and report the related costs of the employee (simplification).

Wrap-up - travel costs flat rate

- Travel costs flat rate = also for staff members not assigned to the project (not reporting their staff costs) but occasionally participating in project events (e.g. final event)
- Travel flat rate = partners should still travel!
 - → Learning on the ground = at the heart of the programme logic

Wrap-up

→ Read carefully the programme manual, especially **section 6. Financial management**

→In case of doubt, contact your JS officers!

→And don't let your grand-mother complete your partner report! ©

Focus on public procurement

Procurement timeline



Determining and planning the procedure

Notification of rejection and approval

Contract

Terms of reference

Evaluation/ selection report

Proof of delivery of goods/services/works

Request for offers/ procurement publication/ notice

Offers/ quotes received

Invoices and archiving of all documents

Procurement

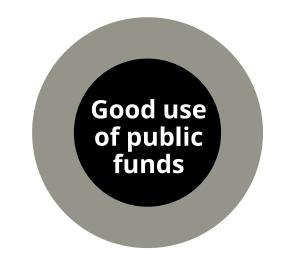
No programme-specific rules

Procurement **applicable rules**:

- the EU public procurement directives (Directive 2014/24/EU)
- national rules
- internal rules of the partner organisation

The strictest rule must always be applied

The controller will verify the compliance



Procurement success factors

Takes time: **start as early as possible!**



Estimate the value of your need (at institutional level)



Identify which rules apply (European, national, internal)

Procurement success factors

- **Apply** the right procedure (adequate advertising through adequate media depending on interest of tender, timeframe)
- Award the contract in a fair and transparent way
- Document and archive the relevant documentation/ justification (even for direct awards)



Frequent errors

- Inadequate procedure chosen
 e.g. direct award of contract not justified
- Value of the contract not estimated at institutional level
- Insufficient publicity
- Splitting the contracts to fit below thresholds
- Lack of documentation of each steps



Unjustified direct award

Carefully consider:

"Urgency"

"The only one"

"More economic – no cost for training new person"

"Good value (based on old comparison)"



Potential conflict of interest

- Check your organization's internal rules and procedures
- Make sure that the internal procedure is applied
- Keep adequate documentation for control/audits



Financial corrections

Flat rate corrections of up to 100% of the costs can be applied by controllers or auditors in case of non-compliance with public procurement rules.

Reference: Commission guidelines C(2019) 3452



report costs in the consolidation tab



Partner 4 reports EUR 1,400 in **External expertise and services** under a planned item for 'Exchange of experience – **travel and accommodation external bodies**'.

Description provided:

"Flight and hotel for 2 stakeholders attending study visit in Ireland (24-26 June 2023)".









The costs are well reported

- Concise and detailed description.
- Costs linked with the activity.
- Partners should keep documentation of the invitation to stakeholders (e.g., collaboration agreement, email).



The lead partner reports EUR 1,000 in **Equipment** in a planned item. The original amount planned is EUR 800.

Description provided:

"Laptop for project manager. The project manager initially planned to work 80% of his time on the project and finally works 100%".









The costs are well reported

• Justification on why the costs are higher than planned is provided.

To keep in mind:

- Only the share related to the use of the equipment for the project may be reported.
- Depending on when the equipment was purchased
 → pro rata depreciation.



Partner 6 reports EUR 200 in **External expertise and services** under a planned item for 'Communication - materials'.

Description provided:

"Communication materials"









The definition is too vague

What are the communication materials in question?

Reminder: Communication materials should be used for **external purposes** (events, visibility).

Proposal: roll-up produced and posters printed externally



Partner 2 reports EUR 1,200 in **External expertise and services** under a planned item for 'Exchange of experience – travel and accommodation external bodies'.

Description provided: "Train ticket Marco"









The definition is too vague

What is the **link with the activity**? **Who** took the train and to which event? Is Marco a **stakeholder/expert/APA**?

Reminder: costs for staff members are included in the T&A flat rate.

Proposal: train for stakeholder from the Ministry to take part in the Study Visit in Vienna on 3rd May 2023.



Partner 5 reports EUR 3,200 in **External expertise and services** under a planned item for 'Exchange of experience – meetings'. The original amount planned is EUR 2,500.

Description provided: "external support"









The definition is too vague

What is the link with the activities? What was the support about, which service was provided, in which meeting?

Justification for amount exceeded must be provided.

Proposal: Catering, room rental and translation for partners meeting with stakeholders in Turku on 24 June.

Justification – More stakeholders were able to attend. 35 people in total instead of 20 planned.

How to write an external expertise item description

Give a concise and detailed description in the consolidation tab.

The description should indicate:

- Nature of the costs (e.g. flight, catering, room rental...)
- Link with the activities = be consistent with the activity report.
- Date/place when related to an event.
- Who is the person involved (e.g. stakeholder/expert).



Partner 5 reports EUR 15,000 in **External expertise and services** under a planned item for 'Exchange of experience – external support'. The original amount planned is EUR 10,000.

Description provided: "External study on local state of play carried out by an expert"









Amount exceeded and no justification provided

Justification expected in the progress report for unplanned expenditure or amounts higher than expected.

Why was the external study more expensive than originally planned? What is the added value for the exchange of experience?

Suppliers	Description	Justification
supplier 3	description of the unplanned item	Justification of the unplanned item 35/500
supplier 4	Consolidated description	Justification of the overspent item



Partner 3 reports EUR 400 in **External expertise and services** under an unplanned item for 'communication material'.

Description provided: "zoom licence for project meetings – 3 years"









Wrong cost category selected

IT software falls under the **equipment** cost category.

Equipment item should have been planned or agreed with JS previously.



Partner 3 reports EUR 500 in **External expertise and services** under a planned item for 'exchange of experience – travel and accommodation external bodies'.

Description provided: "flight to go to Budapest and hotel for the director of our organisation attending interregional workshop on 14/06/2023"









Costs to be removed

Travel and accommodation costs of staff members are already covered by the **T&A flat rate**.

The director is employed by the partner's organisation.



Are the costs well reported?

Partner 5 reports EUR 10,000 in **Infrastructure and works.** This partner does not have a pilot action.

Description provided: "Costs for adapting road infrastructure to implement policy change"









Costs to be removed

Infrastructure and works:

- Only when **planned/pre- approved.**
- Only for pilot actions.



Implementation oriented costs cannot be covered by the project's budget (except for pilots).

References:

Programme Manual

- section 6.2.4, 6.2.5 and 6.2.6
- section 7.1.2 on communication materials
- section 3.1.2 for costs 'implementation oriented'

Regulation (EU) No 2021/1059 Art. 42, 43 and 44





Reporting in the Portal

https://portal.interregeurope.eu



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Portal – State of play

Partner report

• Report to be filled in

• Supporting document deletion

• Submission to controller active

Ready

October

October

Controllers

Sampling

Control report and checklist

• Validation for PT and ES

Ready

Ready

October/November

Joint progress report

Policy part

• Financial part

Ready (hidden)

In progress (hidden)

User access

- LP, PPs, Controllers see the Application form
- PP users will only see their own partner reports
- LP users will see their own reports and the other partners' reports
- Controller sees the financial report when it's submitted to them
- All users assigned to the PP or LP receive the notifications related to that organisation

The lifecycle of a progress report



https://portal.interregeurope.eu



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1. Financial report

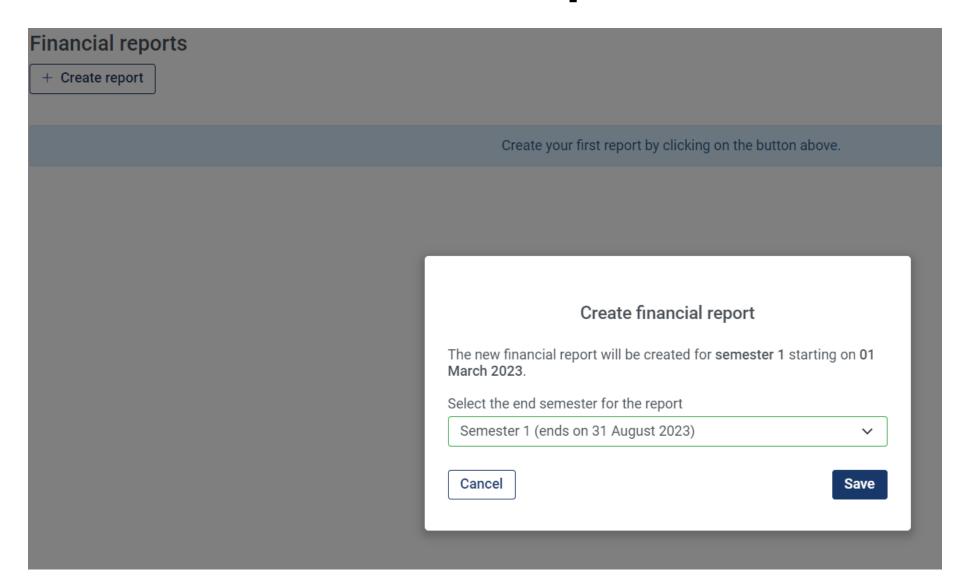
 Compiled by each partner within 2 weeks after end of the reporting period

Includes:

- Activity summary (≠ policy report)
- List of expenditure
- Procurements

Supporting documents uploaded on the Portal

1. Create a financial report





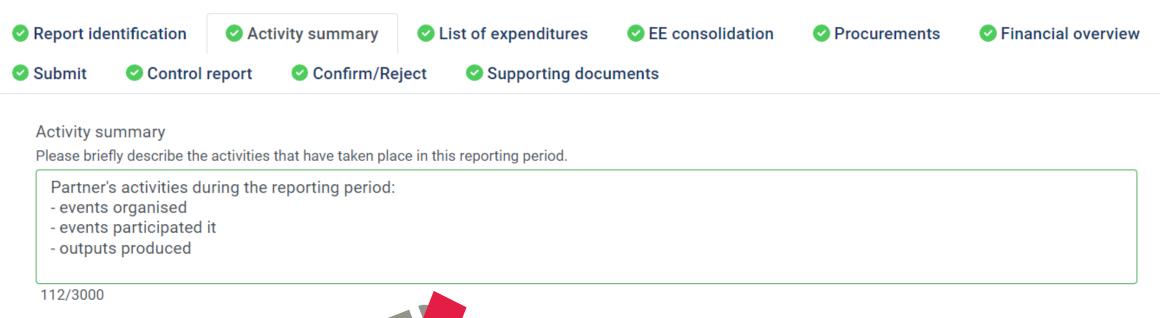
Impossible to change the reporting period after the report has been created

Only one report per semester

1. Report identification: general info on partner

Report identification Activity summary List of expenditures EE consolidation Financial overview Submit Procurements Supporting documents Report number WEEEWaste Project acronym Project title | Improving policies for waste management of electrical and electronic equipment Application form version Partner number Aufbauwerk Region Leipzig GmbH Partner name Partner from 01/03/2023 Partner until 31/05/2027 Legal status Public Reporting period start Semester 3 (begins on 01 March 2024) Reporting period end Semester 3 (ends on 31 August 2024)

1. Activity summary





Autosave function

= **no need** to click on save

1. List of expenditure

+ Add expenditure

ID t	Cost category		Contract number	Application form iten number or month ③		Description	Employee/supplier	Document reference number	Date of invoice/document	Date of payment	Currency		Exchang
1	Staff costs	~	~	04 - April 🗸	,	project manager sa	Bruce Dickinson	BD0423	Please select	24 Apr 2023	Euro	~	
						22/300	15/300	6/300					
2	Staff costs	~	~	04 - April 💙	,	com manager sala	Paul Newman	PN0423	Please select	24 Apr 2023	Euro	~	
						18/300	11/300	6/300					
3	Staff costs	~	~	04 - April 🗸	,	finance manager s	Rod Stewart	RS0423	Please select	24 Apr 2023	Euro	~	
						22/300	11/300	6/300					
4	Staff costs	~	~	05 - May 🗸	,	project manager sa	Bruce Dickinson	BD0523	Please select	29 May 2023	Euro	~	
						22/300	15/300	6/300					
5	Staff costs	~	~	05 - May 💙	,	com manager sala	Paul Newman	PN0523	Please select	28 May 2023	Euro	~	
						18/300	11/300	6/300					
6	Staff costs	~	~	05 - May ×	,	finance manager sa	Rod Stewart	RS0523	Please select	29 May 2023	Euro	~	
						22/300	11/300	6/300					
7	Staff costs	~	~	06 - June 🗸	,	project manager sa	Bruce Dickinson	BD0623	Please select	29 May 2023	Euro	~	
				Jo dailo .		22/300	15/300	6/300	. 10000 001000	27 1113, 2020	Laio		
8	Staff costs	.,	~	06 - June	,	com manager cala	Daul Newman	DNI0623	Diago calent	26 Jun 2023	Furo	V	

1. List of expenditure

- Expenditure only for cost categories reported on real cost basis
- Drop down list to select a contract number
- Month selection for staff costs
- Link with application form section F2
- Descriptions in English
- Expenditure converted to EUR automatically



Not visible in the joint PR

1. Consolidation by AF number

- Report identification
- Activity summary
- List of expenditures
- Consolidation
- Procurements
- Financial overview
- Submit
- Control report

- Confirm/Reject
- Supporting documents

All

External expertise and services

Equipment

Infrastructure and works

Item number / Description in AF	Planned amount in EUR	Suppliers	Description	Justification	Total amount in EUR
1 Management – expenditure control External expertise and services	8,100.00	Controller	Controller cost semesters 1-6	The planned amount was overspent due to	10,000.00
			29/500	42/500	
10 Exchange of experience – meetings External expertise and services interregional partner meetings, regional stakeholder group meetings	4,700.00	Awesome Catering, Great Hotel	Partner meeting in Brussels on 14 July 2023. Room rental and lunch for 25 people	0/500	4,000.00

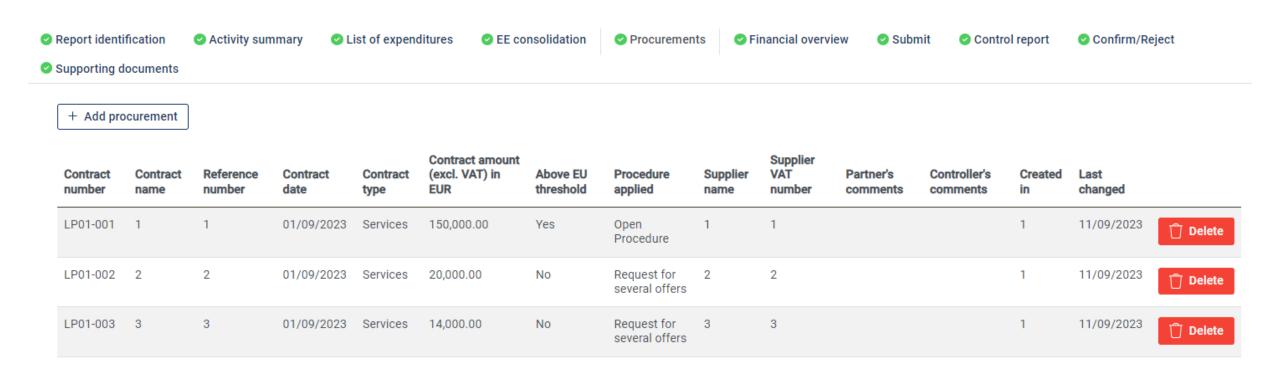


transferred to the Progress Report

Unplanned items

Item	Suppliers	Description	Justification	Total amount in EUR
Unplanned - Communication – material External expertise and services	Printing	unplanned COM material	pre-approved by JS in email on 8 Aug 2023	1,000.00
		22/500	41/500	_

1. Procurements and contracts



Automatic contract numbering to easily link expenditure items to a contract

One list for all finance reports

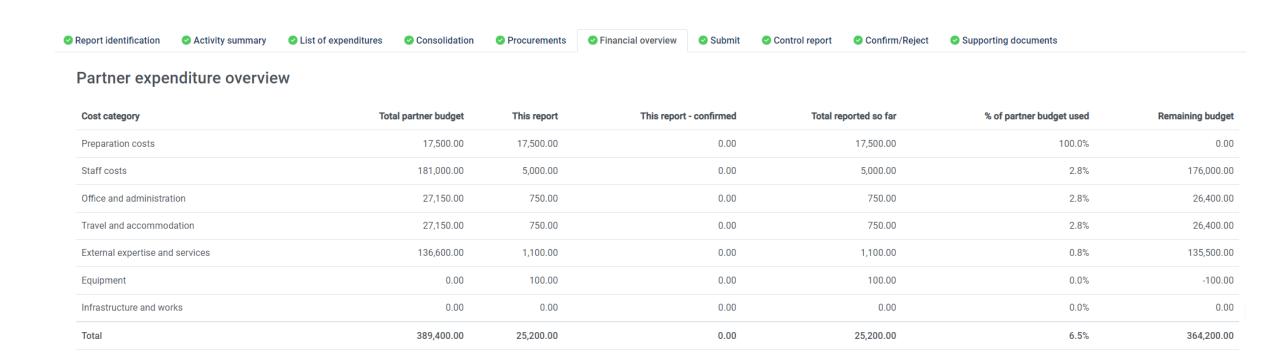
1. Procurements and contracts

- Only list contracts above or equal EUR 10,000 without VAT
- For contracts above the EU threshold:
 - Subcontracts above EUR 50,000
 - Beneficial owners

+ Add beneficial owner

Sub contract(s) + Add subcontractor Beneficial owner(s) Please indicate the beneficial owner of the supplier as defined in Directive 2015-849 Article 3 (6). If the supplier is not a private company, you may put n/a in all fields.

1. Financial overview



Shows totals per cost category and total reported

1. Partner contribution per funding source

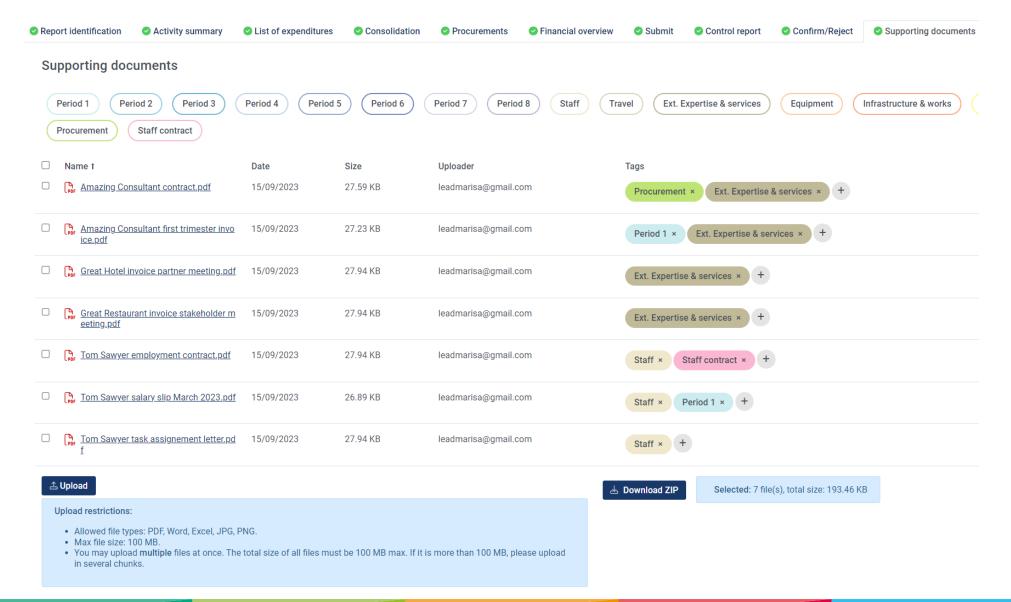
Partner expenditure breakdown per source of funding

Please note, that changing entries in "List of expenditures" will reset the contribution.								
	Total	ERDF / NO	Total partner contribution	Partner contribution from public sources	Partner contribution from private source			
Declared by partner	6,500.00	5,200.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	0.00			
Confirmed by controller	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			

Attribution to **public** or **private** based on the application form, but **editable** by partner and controller

Double check and correct (if needed) as a **last step**, because adding/ removing expenditure forces recalculation

1. Supporting documents



Visible only to the partner and their controller



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2. Submitting to the controller & certification

• Partner submits financial report to the controller



- Controller checks the financial report, based on the sample (if applicable)
- Asks for clarifications, if needed (outside Portal)
- Confirms the financial report and issues:
 - 1. Standard control certificate Appendix 3.1 to the programme manual
 - 2. Standard control report and checklist Appendix 3.2 to the programme manual

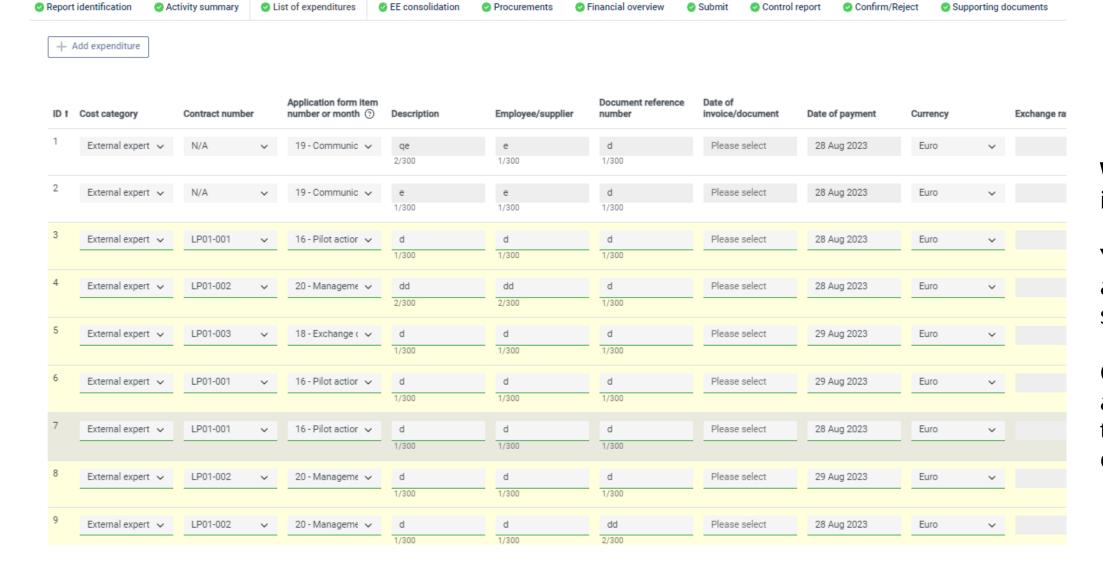
2. Controller's actions



- Controller can return the report to the partner before the sample is drawn, if quality is poor
- All of the fields are editable by the controller (except *Amount declared*)
- If the amount is wrong, the controller modifies it in the field *Amount confirmed by controller*
- Partner can upload new documents even after the report is submitted to the controller, but before it is certified



2. Sample generator



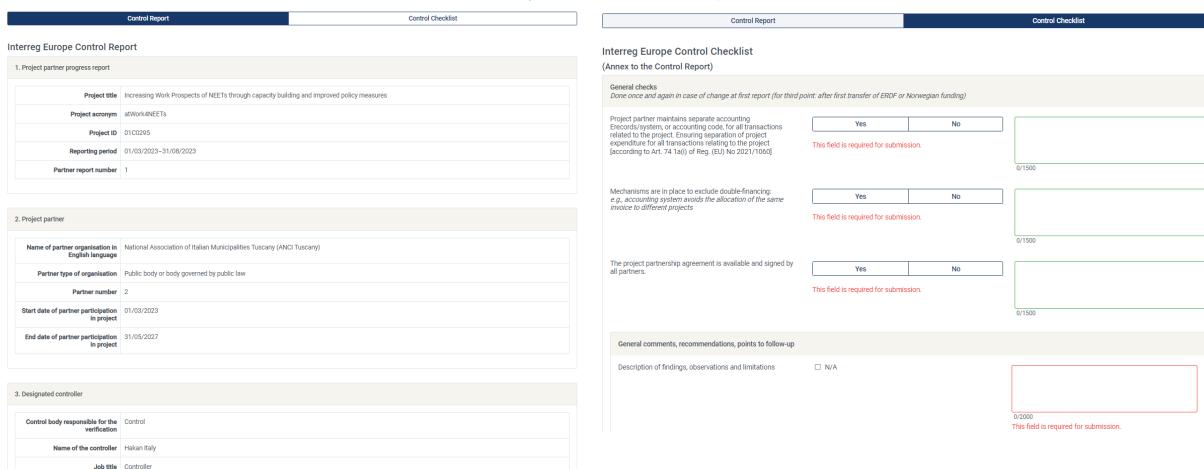
White: not in sample

Yellow: automatic sample

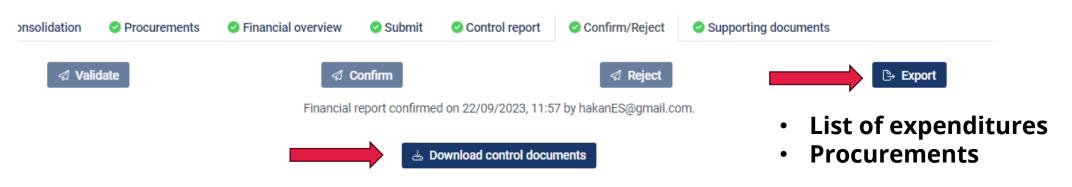
Grey: added by the controller

2. Control report (incl. checklist)

- Directly in the Portal
- Documents downloadable after the report confirmed by the controller



2. Control documents



- Control certificate
- Control report incl. checklist

Exercise for partners

List of expenditure

- 1. Fill-in the missing information
- 2. Link to the correct AF item
- 3. Link to procurement, if applicable

Consolidation tab

1. Provide common description and justification, when needed

Supporting documents

- 1. Add relevant tags to the documents
- 2. Filter and download only staff related documents



Exercise for controllers

List of expenditure

- 1. Draw the sample
- 2. Add 1 item manually to the sample
- 3. Modify item description
- 4. Change cost category
- 5. Change the confirmed amount
- 6. Link an item with a procurement

Procurements tab

- 1. Modify the type of procedure applied in an existing procurement
- 2. Add a procurement above EU threshold
 - Add a subcontractor
 - · Add a beneficial owner

Supporting documents

- 1. Remove/add relevant tags to the documents
- 2. Filter and download only staff related documents

Control report

1. Open control report and checklist and fill it in



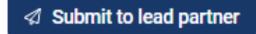


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3. Finance report confirmed



Dear Partner,

your finance report no 1, reporting period 01/03/2023 - 31/08/2023 has just been confirmed by your controller. Please submit it to your lead partner, so that it could be included in the progress report.

Kind regards, Interreg Europe

This is an automatic email - please do not reply.



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4. LP compiles the joint progress report

 LP includes the financial reports that have been confirmed by a controller in the joint progress report

LP checks that:

- the information provided by partners is accurately reflected in the joint progress report
- the costs included result from implementing the project as planned and as set out in the application form and described in the progress report

4. LP includes finance reports in PR

3 Finance reports

Number	Version	Semesters	Partner		
1	1	1-1	LP01 Government of Catalonia - Department of Climate Action, Food and Rural Agenda	+ Include	S Reject
1	1	1-1	PP02 Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly	+ Include	Seject
1	1	1-1	PP06 Emilia-Romagna Region	+ Include	Seject

4. If corrections are needed...

Minor corrections

LP can make the changes in the joint PR

Major corrections

Report goes back to the partner and its controller for recertification

- Item descriptions
- AF item link
- cost category
- justification

change of the amount ϵ



4. If corrections are needed...

All

1 Summary of project activities 2 Insight into project's results 3 Finance reports 3.4 Consolidation 4 Submit External expertise Infrastructure and

and services

Partner	Item number / Description in AF	Planned amount in EUR	Suppliers	Description	Justification	Total amount in EUR
PP05 The R&D center the municipality of Linköping	25 Exchange of experience – travel and accommodation external bodies External expertise and	16,250.00	Travel agency	Travel cost of SH Bruce Dickinson to partner meeting in Brussels on 14 July 2023	0/500	1,500.00
PP05 The R&D center the municipality of Linköping	26 Communication – material External expertise and services Project communication and dissemination materials i	950.00	Printer	Project poster printing 23/500	The printing costs were slightly underestimated 47/500	1,000.00
PP06 ULSS7 Pedemontana Agency	29 Exchange of experience – meetings External expertise and services interregional partner	10,600.00	Awesome Hotel, Great Catering	Partner meeting in Brussels on 14 July 2023. Room rental, lunch and coffee break for 20 people 94/500	0/500	2,000.00

Equipment

works

4. Other Joint PR sections

Financial overview - summary of the reported costs on partner and project level, ERDF/NO funding, partner contribution follow up

Spending plan, overspending/underspending – LP will provide justification for the overall spending of the project



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JOINT PR CHECKED AND APPROVED BY THE JS

PR submitted to JS



Dear Lead Partner,

Your progress report has been successfully submitted. The reference details are as follows:

- Interreg Europe 01C0045 CROWDFUNDMATCH
- Progress report: 1, reporting period: 01/03/2023 31/08/2023, version: 1
- Submission date/time: 12/09/2023 14:40:24

Please retain this message for your records.

Kind regards, Interreg Europe

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6. Joint PR checked and approved by the JS

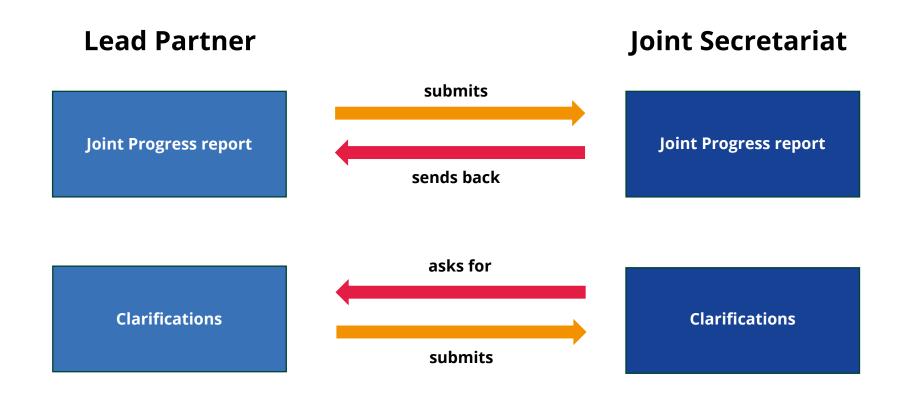
The JS checks only the joint PR

NB!

The JS does not check **individual partner financial reports**The JS does not check **the list of expenditures**The JS has no access to **the supporting documents**

- If necessary, JS sends clarification requests to the LP (similar mechanism to the conditions)
- Most common clarifications:
 - Item description not clear, no link to the reported activities
 - Date, time, and place of an event missing
 - Specific tasks carried out by external experts not detailed enough

6. Joint PR checked and approved by JS



Once all points have been clarified, the PR can be approved and paid!



Links to useful videos

Playlist of tutorials on reporting for partners

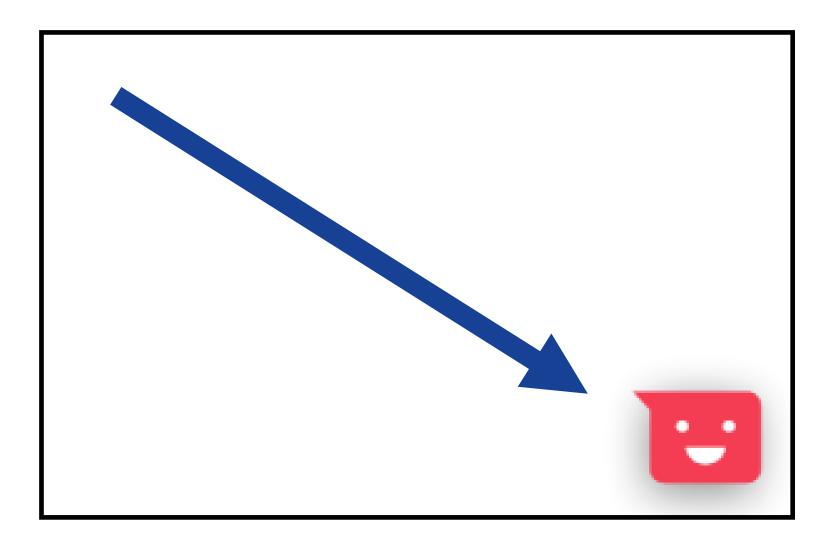
https://youtu.be/Z4uZJEwbxco?list=PLXXM7UvBjnhg-nu0MaFm6IW9zcElepogm

Playlist of tutorials on reporting for controllers

https://youtu.be/f5gA_hhxQUY?list=PLXXM7UvBjnhjc98zMRY8O_NKoljc8vUjy



Your feedback is needed!



Where to find answers?

Programme manual

Webinars

Website

Helpier

JS emails with tips



Stay tuned: upcoming webinar on reporting

Online Q&A session on 20 October

- → For all partners
- →To answer questions related to finances and financial reporting in the Portal