

Halfway through the programming 2014-2020 – halfway through the programme spending?



22 February 2018
Nice, France





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Outlines

It is already year 2018, which brings us to a halfway through the programming period 2014-2020. But how far are we with our programmes' implementation and achievement of objectives? How good are we at the efficient spending of the allocated funding? Is everything going according to a plan or are there any hindrances that could take our trains off the rails?

The most efficient use of the allocated to the programme funding is equally important as reaching programme objectives with the help of high quality projects. For that reason, ensuring appropriate and timely spending is an ongoing challenge that should not be only considered at the end of the programming period, but constantly. This event will provide a space for programmes to discuss problems and challenges they face in their programmes' implementation and spending, and to identify solutions which could support programmes in better/ more effective use of the allocated funding. During the event we will look at the overall stage of Interreg implementation to date and on the estimates of the financial planning for 2018. A special place in the event will be dedicated to discuss on how to ensure high spending level rates – a brief follow-up on the survey on spending level in 2007-2013 conducted by Interact will be presented, accompanied with a number of programmes sharing their experience and strategies in implemented and/ or planned measures on ensuring effective spending. The recent updated EGESIF's decommitment methodology and process in 2014-2020 will be closely looked at. Calculation of decommitment targets will be brought up to the attention of participants once again. Strategies on how to combat decommitment risks will be discussed.

The primarily target groups of the event are Interreg Managing Authorities and finance officers of Joint Secretariats.

Objectives

During the event participants will have an opportunity to:

- get an update on the state of play of the Interreg programmes implementation progress until the end of 2017;
- identify and discuss main caveats and challenges in the smooth programme implementation;
- recap/ get familiar with the methods and strategies to ensure high level programme spending in the previous programming period;
- discuss different programmes' approach being used/ planned to be used in the programming 2014-2020.



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Thursday, 22 February 2018

- 09.00 – 09.30** Registration and Welcome Coffee / Tea
- 09.30 – 09.45** **Welcome and introduction**
Interact
- 09.45 – 10.30** **Interreg implementation until the end of 2017**
Interact
- Performance frameworks in ETC programmes: milestones and key implementation steps until 2018
 - State of play – Interreg implementation
 - Financial estimates for 2018
- Objectives of the session: *to analyse progress in implementation of Interreg programmes until end of 2017; to reflect on approaching targets to be met until end of 2018; to discuss potential problems/ challenges.*
- 10.30 – 11.15** **Decommitment as a mechanism to encourage programme spending**
Interact
- Decommitment process in 2014-2020 – updated EGESIF guidance note
 - Calculation of decommitment targets (Interreg and IPA CBC)
 - Q&A following EGESIF note
- Objectives of the session: *to have an in-depth look on how the decommitment procedure is organised; to obtain a practical understanding of how targets are calculated; to reflect on the MSs observations on the decommitment methodology.*
- 11.15 – 11.45** Coffee break
- 11.45 – 12.30** **Continuation of session Decommitment as a mechanism to encourage programme spending – practical side**
Interreg V-A Romania – Bulgaria
- 12.30 – 13.30** Lunch
- 13.30 – 15.00** **Presentation of the results of Interact survey on programme spending in 2007-2013 and presentations of different methods used/ planned to combat decommitment risks in 2014-2020 from Interreg programmes**



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Interact and Interreg programmes (tbc)

- Spending level achieved
- Bottlenecks identified
- Methods used
- Few programmes presenting their stories/ methods planned to be used

Objectives of the session: *during the session the results of the survey will be presented. The focus will be put on the main caveats and challenges in the satisfactory programme spending and measures used by the programmes in the previous programming to ensure efficient spending.*

15.00 – 15.30

Coffee break

15.30 – 16.15

Discussion on main challenges in programme implementation and strategies to ensure effective spending based on case studies exercise

Interact

- Which challenges are already recognised in programme implementation
- How these shortcomings could be dealt with?
- Potential for new methods to use?

Objective of the session: *to exchange on current difficulties/ problems programmes face during their programme's implementation, to share strategies and good practices on how to ensure high level spending.*

16.15 – 16.30

Summary of main findings and evaluation of the event

Interact