

Staff costs in Interreg



30 August 2018

Staff costs in Interreg–Theory and practice

Venue: Hotel Monopol, Mannheimer Str. 11-13,
60329 Frankfurt (Main), Germany





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Outlines

In most Interreg projects staff costs constitute the largest part of the budget, which also seems to reflect the challenges faced and variety of approaches applied by programmes for this budget line.

With the Delegated Regulation 481/2014, the legal frame for this programming period 2014-2020 presented significant changes with regard to staff cost for Interreg. The detailed rules for staff costs and different calculation methods meant new opportunities, but also new challenges and uncertainties. For instance, the concept of timesheets was abandoned for some staff cost methods, off-the shelf simplified cost options were established and other new options were introduced. In light of those opportunities and challenges, Interact organises a one-day event for experienced programme staff to exchange on practices, to analyse the challenges and maybe to develop joint solutions for still existing problems.

Objectives

The event will provide programmes the opportunity to actively exchange and explore different practices. Practical exercises and small group discussions should help to gain knowledge and new perspectives.

The event does not target to communicate “right” or “wrong” approaches, but to provide a platform for exchanging practises and allow for new insights in what the other Interreg programmes do.



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Thursday, 30 August 2018

08.30 – 09.00 Registration and welcome coffee / tea

09.00 – 09.15 **Welcome & expectations overview**
Interact

09.15 – 09.45 **The theory**
Interact

- Legal frame
- Changes from the previous programming period to today and changes to come (Omnibus)

With this session, participants are provided with a reminding overview on the legal frame.

09.45 – 10.30 **The practice: SCOs - what is available and what do programmes do?**

- Introduction, *Interact*
- Programme presentation: Standard Scale of Unit costs for staff in the Interreg Germany-Netherlands programme, *Ingo Von Wirth, Albert Jan Van De Griend, managing authority Interreg Germany-Netherlands*
- Q & A

After this session, participants will have increased their knowledge on available simplified cost options and their application. Challenges and potential solutions will be discussed.

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 – 12.00 **The practice: Fixed percentage – simplification?!**

- Introduction, *Interact*
- Programme presentation: Fixed percentage for staff in the Interreg Alpine Space programme, *Primoz Skrt, joint secretariat Interreg Alpine Space*
- Q & A

This session will allow participants to focus on general issues, but also on details like “mission statement/letter”, monitoring practices of the fixed percentage method and the risk of gold plating.

12.00 – 13.00 **The practice: Hourly rate calculations –keep the overview?!**

- Introduction, *Interact*
- Programme presentation: hourly rate calculations for staff in the Interreg Central Baltic programme, *Merike Niietepold, managing authority Interreg Central Baltic*



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- Presentation: Differences in the hourly rate calculations for staff for Croatian project partners, *Andrijana Gavran, Anđela Tadić, Drako Fridl, Agency for Regional Development of the Republic of Croatia, Directorate for First Level Control*
- Q & A

In this session participants will have the opportunity to learn about and discuss issues like, how to deal with different staff costs methods for the same employee, risks of overcompensation, eligibility of holidays and sick-leave.

Lunch break

13.00 – 14.00

How do you calculate staff costs?

14.00 – 15.00

Practical calculation exercises in small groups

The objective of this session is to show the complexity of calculating staff costs and to compare the different calculation methods.

Coffee break

15.00 – 15.30

It's all clear, isn't it? Addressing the question marks and still existing gaps.

15.30 – 16.15

Group work and plenary discussion

With this session, participants can exchange on issues for which solutions are still to be found and learn how colleagues are tackling them, e.g. SMEs and remuneration/compensation of CEOs & staff costs, Staff costs or external expertise? Holidays & staff costs.

16.15 – 17.00

What does the future bring? Taking a look at the proposed Regulations.

Presentation and plenary discussion

After this session, participants will have had a chance to exchange and reflect on the proposed legal frame for the next programming period.



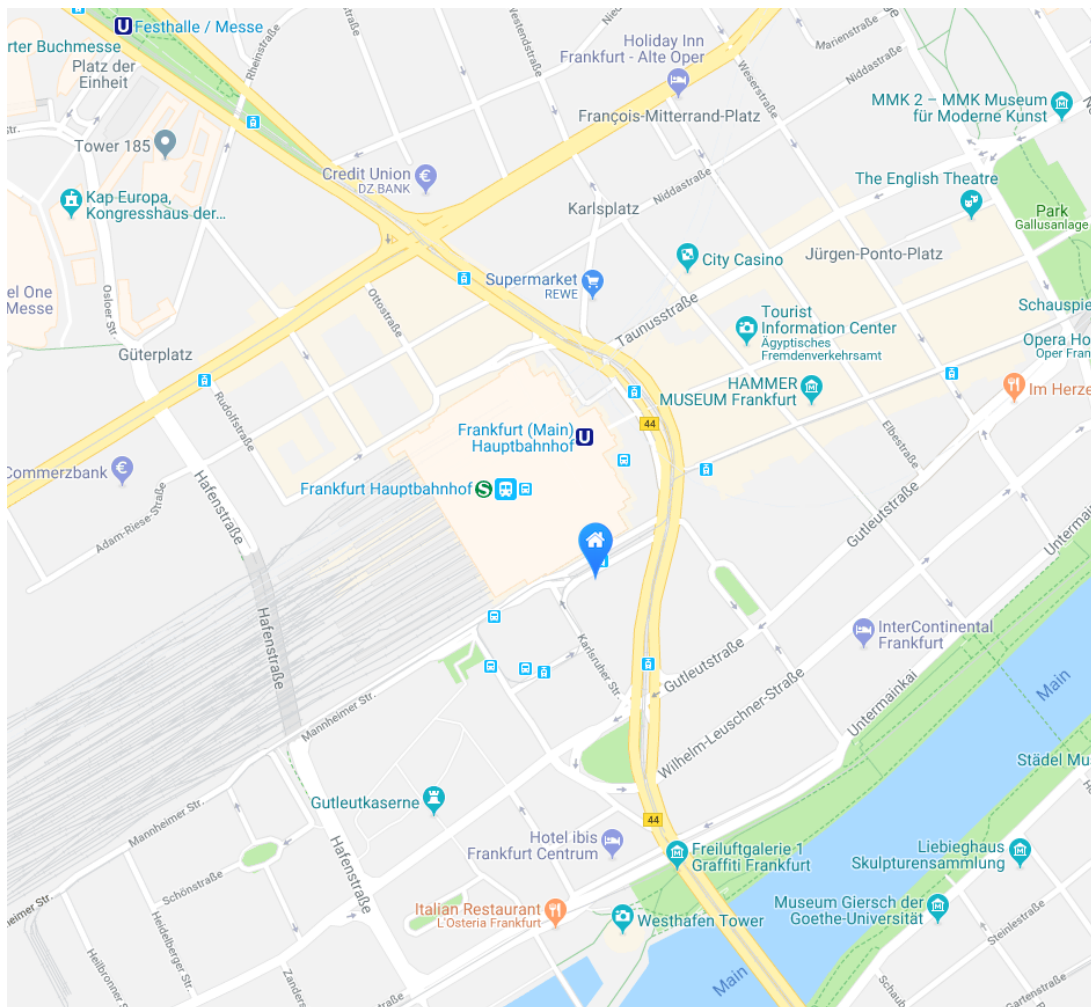
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Practicalities

Venue

The event will be organised in Hotel Monopol, Mannheimer Str. 11-13, 60329 Frankfurt (Main), Germany. <https://www.hotelmonopol-frankfurt.com/>



The venue is located close to Frankfurt's central station which allows for easy access by train or plane. The airport is connected to the central station by regional and urban trains. More information can be found here: <https://www.frankfurt-airport.com/en/travel/transfer.detail.suffix.html/article/travel/directions/local-public-transportation.html>