

Annual accounts – how to improve?



Agenda, 2 October 2018
The Intercontinental Hotel
Bucharest, Romania





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Outlines and objectives

The preparation and submission of annual accounts require close cooperation of key programme authorities (mainly Managing, Certifying and Audit Authority) over a very tight period. During autumn, the full control cycle has to be completed through management verifications, by the MAs as well as the auditors.

By the time the meeting takes place, the programmes will have already submitted their accounts and the meeting aims at exchanging experiences and learning for the next year. This is why we would like to bring together MAs, CAs and AAs of Interreg programmes together with Commission colleagues to discuss jointly their feedback, exchange good and bad experiences and commonly find ways to improve the process for the future.

The main objectives of the event are for programmes authorities to: learn from others on best practices implemented, to familiarise themselves with ways challenges could be overcome and to identify ways the process of submission of annual accounts for the programme can be improved.

Please note that the event is targeted at MAs, CAs and AAs representatives who are directly responsible for preparation and submission of annual accounts in Interreg programmes.

In order to ensure best environment for effective exchange we have to limit overall number of participants. As we would like to invite representatives from different Member States and programmes, we aim at accepting maximum 2-3 representatives per programme/Member State. Especially in case of same authority (CA or AA) covering multiple programmes.

Contact:

Malgorzata Zdunek (malgorzata.zdunek@interact-eu.net)

Phone: +358 503 512 522



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Timetable

- 09.00 – 09.30 **Morning coffee and registration**
- 09.30 – 09.45 Welcome and introduction
Interact
- 09.45 – 10.15 Overview of the current stage of programmes implementation and first experience gathered during submission of annual accounts
Interact
At the end of this session participants will be informed about:
- *state of financial implementation of Interreg programmes*
 - *results of discussions held during March meeting on annual accounts.*
- 10.15 – 11.00 Experience sharing – programmes and authorities perspective
Panel discussion:
- Bart Van Ballaert – MA . Belgium – The Netherlands
 - Catherine Goure-Rauch – CA – Rhin Superieur
 - William Noppe – Head of the Audit Unit in support of the Flamish AA
 - Carolyn Reid – Head of JS - France – United Kingdom
 - Sandra Vilcina – MA – Latvia - Lithuania
- 11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30 – 12.00 Experience sharing – continuation
At the end of this session participants will be able to:
- *list examples of problems met by different authorities and programmes .*
- 12.00 – 13.00 Topics needed further clarifications
Group work exercise - collecting questions to be answered by Commission colleagues
- At the end of this session participants will have:*
- *a list of questions still to be addressed on annual accounts*
- 13.00 – 14.00 Lunch



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- 14.00 – 14.45 DG Regio perspective – submission of annual accounts and what needs to be improved
Presentations by the Commission
Rafael López – Sánchez
Deputy head of Unit C.1, DG Regio
At the end of this session participants will be able to:
- *to construct baseline data on problems to be addressed.*
- 14.45 – 15.30 Q & A and discussions
At the end of this session participants will have:
- *outstanding issues regarding annual accounts clarified and explained.*
- 15.30 – 16.00 Coffee break
- 16.00 – 16.30 What changes are proposed regarding annual accounts – draft regulations for post 2020
Presentations by the Commission
Rafael López – Sánchez
Deputy head of Unit C.1, DG Regio
At the end of this session participants will be able to:
- *understand the proposed changes to the process of submission of annual accounts.*
- 16.30 – 17.00 Q & A and discussion
- 17.00 – 17.15 Wrap up and evaluations of the event