

# MA, JS and National Controllers: Cooperating towards more effective management verifications

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**Agenda**  
**23 – 24 October 2018**  
Sliema, Malta





## **MA, JS and National Controllers: Cooperating towards more effective management verifications**

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### **Outline**

With this event we will take a close look at management verifications in Interreg from the unique perspectives of MA/JS and national controllers (FLC). On Day 1 members of MA/JS and national controllers will examine interfaces of their work and identify key factors for cooperation and more effective management verifications.

Day 2 will provide an opportunity to discuss hot topics and current issues related to management verifications such as new options provided by the Omnibus Regulation and a tentative perspective on post-2020 management verifications.

If you are a National Controller or a member of a Managing Authorities or Joint Secretariat dealing with management verifications, this event is for you!

### **Day 1**

A well-tuned engine runs smoothly and sounds nicely – for those driving a car as well as for those being driven in it. Taking this metaphor to the Interreg world, one can consider MA, JS and National Control (FLC) as the engine in the management of cooperation programmes.

It goes without saying that task division, workflows, interfaces, and daily routines and proceedings of these bodies should be well-tuned.

Legal requirements in the current period will be the point of departure for a joint reflection on management verification practices and communication between MA, JS and National Control. Together we will explore options for managing cooperation, circulating information and creating a climate of mutual support and trust and tackle questions such as: What are the expectations and needs of the various bodies involved in management verifications? How to improve clarity of roles and responsibilities? How to avoid mistakes that could potentially turn into a critical issue harming programme implementation?

### **Day 2**

On the second day we will take a close look at some of the current hot topics in management verifications. Following the approach of past Interact trainings and workshops on management verifications, the workshop will provide a mix of training and discussion sessions. Hot topics are likely to include verification of staff costs, risk-based sampling, new options provided by the Omnibus Regulations and management verifications post 2020. The workshop will provide a possibility to brainstorm on all topics with a focus on simplification and legal certainty.

### **Target group**

This workshop is dedicated to experienced Interreg programmes' staff that is responsible for decision making processes in institution (heads of divisions/departments, deputy heads) from the Managing Authorities, Joint Secretariats and National control institutions (FLCs).

To keep the workshop effective, we need to limit the participation per programme/country/institution to a maximum of two persons.



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Participants are encouraged to contact Interact if they identify a topic on the agenda for which they would be willing to share their practice/experience through a presentation, as well as to propose other topics of interest.

### **Objectives**

An overarching objective of this two-days meeting is to strengthen shared understanding and awareness related to task division as well as proceedings and routines between MA, JS and National Control (FLC).

The main operational objective of the meeting is to have the possibility to learn new practices and exchange experiences among participants. We would like to offer you the possibility to discuss what works, what doesn't and to learn from each other about good practices. Together with colleagues from other countries, participants will be able to identify common challenges in their daily work and share solutions and problem solving methods that can help increase the quality of work.

The key thematic objective is to understand the implications of the Omnibus Regulation and the draft legislative package for post 2020 for the work of National Control (FLC) but also for the MA and JS.

The workshop foresees active contributions from all participants and group work, with brief presentations to introduce topics or practices.



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**Day one**                      **Tuesday, 23 October 2018**

**09.00 – 09.30**      **Registration and Welcome Coffee**

**9.30 – 10.00**      **Welcome and Expectations**  
Interact programme

**10.00 – 11.30**      **MA, JS and FLC – tasks, interfaces and proceedings in legal and practical terms**

By the end of the session, participants will have a shared understanding of:

- The regulatory framework on management verifications 2014-2020
- Hierarchy of roles
- Scope of management verifications

**11.30 – 12.00**      **Coffee Break**

**12.00 – 13.00**      **Role of an institution – External Expectations**  
Interact Programme

By the end of the group work, participants will have arrived at a shared understanding of the different and sometimes contradicting expectations towards bodies involved in management verifications.

**13.00 – 14.00**      **Lunch break**

**14.00 – 15.00**      **MA, JS and FLC – tasks, interfaces and proceedings in legal and practical terms** (Continuation of the morning session)

Programme practices:

- Centralised National Control (Interreg V-A Germany - The Netherland),
- Tasks, interfaces and proceedings in practice (Central Baltic Interreg IV A programme 2007-2013)

By the end of the session, participants will have reflected on different tasks and interfaces of bodies involved in management verifications.

**15.00 – 16.00**      **Roles and responsibilities**



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Programme practice:

- Effective communication (Agency for Regional Development of the Republic of Croatia)
- Group work

With this session participants exchange experience on the importance of effective communication between bodies involved in management verifications.

### **Day two**

**Wednesday, 24 October 2018**

**08.30 – 09.00**

**Welcome Coffee**

**09.00 – 09:15**

**Recap of the previous day**

**09.15 – 09.45**

**What to expect from changes that are coming (Omnibus regulation)**  
Interact programme

By the end of this session, participants will share their understanding of changes that came into force with the new Omnibus regulation.

**09.45 – 11:00**

**Legal frame of Post2020**  
Borislava Woodford, European Commission

By the end of this session, participants will have arrived at a shared understanding of the proposed regulatory framework regarding management verifications. Participants will have a chance to exchange and reflect on the proposed legal frame for the next programming period.

**11.00 – 11.30**

**Coffee Break**

**11.30 – 12.00**

**Staff costs – are there still open questions?**  
Interact programme

By the end of this session, participants will be able to explain the main rules and requirements regarding the calculation of costs for employees engaged in projects full-time, part-time or contracted on an hourly basis.

**12.00 – 13:00**

**Lunch Break**

**13.00 – 14:00**

**Risk-based Verifications and Sampling**  
Interact programme



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By the end of this session, participants will have a better understanding of:

- Practices of other programmes
- Regulatory framework and guidance 2014-2020
- HIT risk assessment and sampling methodology

**14:00 – 14.30**

### **Simplified Costs Options**

Interact programme

By the end of this session participants will have discussed challenges and potential solutions related to using available simplified cost options.

**14.30 – 15:00**

### **Summary, Outlook**

**End of Workshop**