

Workshop on EU level sample for audits of operations for Interreg post 2020



Draft Agenda - 10 December 2018

Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre, Avenue du Boulevard 17, 1210 Brussels, Belgium





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Outlines and objectives

Interact together with the audit unit of DG Regio organises a workshop to further discuss the single audit sample approach for Interreg programmes as proposed by the Commission for a post 2020 regulation.

This event aims to continue the discussions started during a post 2020 ETC Audit Meeting organised by DG Regio in Brussels on 5 April 2018 as well as during the Audit Network meeting organised by Interact in Valencia on 30 May 2018 and a dedicated workshop during the Homologues Group meeting on 25 September 2018 in Sofia.

During the above mentioned events important aspects were already addressed and discussed. It also became clear that there is a high interest of Interreg audit authorities to continue the examination of the proposal to ensure a common understanding and safeguard a smooth implementation of the proposal.

*The event is organised the **day before** the technical AA meeting organised by the Commission on 11 December 2018.*

Interreg programmes have a number of particularities, which trigger additional technical challenges and comparatively high cost of audits as compared to the mainstream programmes. To address this challenge, the proposal for post 2020 regulation on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal provides for a legal basis to the Commission to select an EU level sample using a statistical sampling method for the audit of operations to be carried out by the audit authorities.

The draft post 2020 regulation includes also provisions modifying the function of the audit authority in Interreg programmes as compared to the current programming period. In particular, the audit authority of an Interreg programme shall carry out its functions in the whole territory covered by that Interreg programme. The current possibility of creating a Group of Auditors is not explicitly mentioned in the Commission's proposal.

Technical details on sampling design were presented at the Homologues Group meeting on 25 September 2018 in Sofia during which different questions were raised. In particular, the timeline and the stratification model were brought up during the discussion. To address these questions and contribute to the reflection in view of the set-up of the methodological basis and requirements, technical information will be repeated during this workshop and discussed.

Finally, the impact of the approach with regard to Interreg programmes co-financed from an external financing instrument of the Union (IPA III, NDICI, OCTP) requires further clarification and a common understanding.

The discussions in the workshop aim to:

- identifying challenges and practical solutions for effective implementation of the post 2020 common EU level Interreg sample,
- getting feedback from the AAs in relation to other Interreg specific arrangements within the proposed post 2020 regulatory framework.

The event serves exclusively a debate about possible questions of a future implementation of the regulatory provisions as proposed by the Commission. The presentation and the discussions during the workshop do not to any extent interfere with the process of the legal negotiations on the proposal. In particular, they do not prejudge the outcome of the on-going negotiations on the Post 2020 Regulation between the European Commission, the Council and the European Parliament.



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Monday, 10 December 2018

- 10.30 – 11.00** Registration & Welcome coffee
- 11.00 - 12.30** **Presentation and Q&A (plenary)**
Introduction (*Claude Tournier, DG Regio and Katja Ecke, Interact*)
Specific information on the sampling approach (*Professor Pedro Coelho, Nova University of Lisboa and Barbara Korczak, DG Regio*)
Q&A
Objective of the session is to recap already exchanged information and to provide room for further clarifications concerning the proposal.
- 12.30 - 13.30** Lunch
- 13.30 – 15.30** **Workshops (small working groups)**
Workshop 1: Timeline & organisation of audit of operations (incl. approach to GoA) (*moderated by DG Regio and Interact*)
Workshop 2: Building the audit opinion according to the new approach (*moderated by DG Regio and Interact*)
Workshop 3: Partner countries (NIDICI, IPA, OCT) participation in Interreg (*moderated by TESIM and Interact*)
Workshop 4: SPFs, micro projects & other project types, sub-sampling & remaining questions from sampling (*moderated by DG Regio and Interact*)
Discussions in smaller groups on different aspects of the proposal as well as practicalities to allow for a smooth implementation.
All participants will have the opportunity to contribute to each workshop topic.
- 15.30 – 16.00** Coffee break
- 16.00 - 16.45** **Results from workshops & next steps (plenary)**
Results and agreements from the workshop will be introduced and next steps discussed. A final round of Q&A concludes the event.
- 16.45 - 17.00** Closure of the meeting



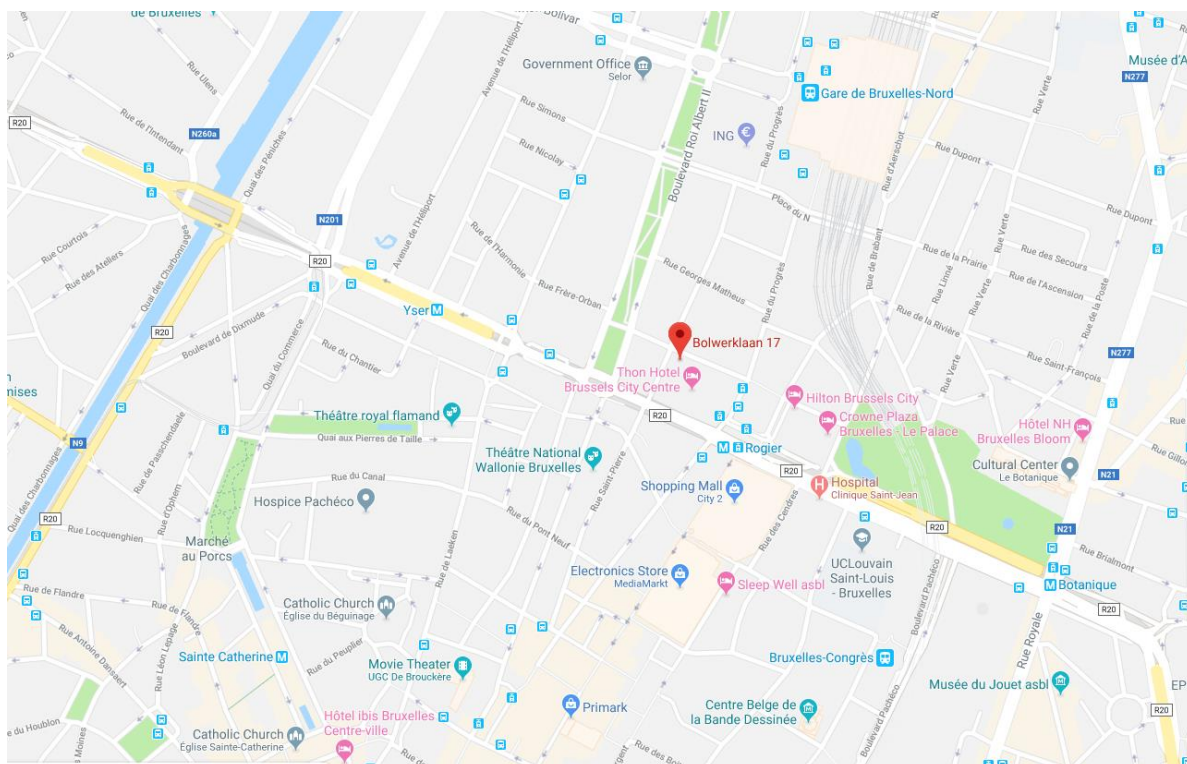
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Practicalities

Venue

Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre, Avenue du Boulevard 17, 1210 Bruxelles, Belgium



<https://goo.gl/maps/SpVjXjpJ5ZE2>

The venue is located in walking distance to Gare de Bruxelles-Nord train station and Rogier metro stop.