

National Control (FLC) Workshop



FINAL Agenda
30-31 October 2019
Bilbao, Spain





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Outline

This workshop is targeting national controllers (FLC) and is repetition of the workshop that was organised this spring in Bergen, Norway. We invite new staff as well as experienced national controllers to join the workshop. Participants that were attending workshop in Bergen are kindly asked not to register for this workshop.

This time we will focus on simplification in Interreg as well as verification of simplified cost options (SCOs) and public procurement. Another focus will be on expected changes in post 2020 and the development of common checklists, control reports, certificates and a risk-based sampling methodology for all controllers in the next period.

To ensure effective exchange of experience, we need to limit participation to a maximum of two people per institution. We will also strive for a good mix of programmes and countries.

Participants are encouraged to contact Interact if they identify a topic on the agenda for which they would like to share their practices/experience with a short presentation!

Objectives

As always exchange of experience among controllers is at the heart of this 1,5 days workshop. Together with colleagues from other countries, you will be able to identify common challenges in your daily work and share solutions that can help focus your work. In doing so, fraud and irregularities as well as SCOs and public procurement are of central importance as common experience is gained in this period and new practices in Programmes are evolving around the Omnibus regulation.

Another objective is to give participants the opportunity to provide input to the development of Harmonised Implementation Tools (HITs) for national controllers for post 2020. Some controllers are using HIT tools in this period while others are new to the process. The objective of revisiting the existing tools is to streamline them, adapt them to the new regulatory framework and promote the use of common tools among controllers.

Related to this, we will also explore the future role of controllers and aim at a common understanding of key factors that simplify control and increase legal certainty for controllers.

The workshop foresees active contributions from all participants. We will be working in groups with only brief presentations to introduce topics or practices.



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Day one

Wednesday, 30 October 2019

09.00 – 09.30

Registration and Welcome Coffee

09.30 – 10.00

Welcome and Expectations

Interact programme

10.00 – 10.30

Omnibus regulation, what is new?

Interact programme

During this session, participants will obtain information on changes related to the Omnibus regulation. Special focus will be on simplified cost options.

10.30 – 11.00

Draft legal framework for Interreg Post2020, what will change?

Interact programme

During this session, participants will:

- learn about the draft post2020 Interreg regulatory framework
- exchange on the draft regulations and discuss proposed changes

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee Break

11.30 – 12.00

Verification of SCOs

Interact programme

During this session, participants will:

- explore how to verify expenditure that has been declared by using SCOs
- exchange on practices already used

12.00 – 13.00

Simplification in Interreg

Interact programme

During this session, participants will:

- work in groups on issues that could be simplified but often are not
- discuss mechanisms complicating procedures and how to address them.

13.00 – 14.00

Lunch Break

14.00 – 15.00

Irregularities and fraud

Andon Tashukov, Legal adviser of AFCOS Directorate - Ministry of Interior, Republic of Bulgaria

During this session participants will:



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- learn about legal framework in the fight against fraud and the latest initiatives in fighting fraud on EU Level
- definitions: suspicion of irregularity, irregularity, suspicion of fraud, fraud
- how to prevent and detect irregularities; competent authorities in administrative and criminal law
- roles and responsibilities of national controllers in fight against fraud

15.00 – 16.00 **How to determine financial correction in public procurements?**
Interact programme

During this session, participants will:

- discuss main principles of the new post2020 guidelines for determining public procurement financial corrections
- understand cases when Guidelines for determining public procurement financial corrections should be applied
- practice the application of the Guidelines with practical examples

16.00 – 16.15 **Sharing experience. FLC problematic issues,**
Dr. Konstantinos Christodoulou, Managing Authority of European Territorial Programmes, Thessaloniki, Greece

16.15 – 17.00 **Tasks of national controller in Post2020 (Group work)**
Interact programme

During this session, participants will:

- discuss what are tasks of institutions involved in management verifications, specifically national controllers tasks
- think what their tasks can be in future

Day two **Thursday, 31 October 2019**

09.00 – 09.15 **Recap of day 1**

09:15 – 09:45 **Introduction to Harmonised Implementation Tools (HITs) for management Verifications**

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During this session, participants will:

- get to know the HIT process
- hear about the HITs planned for management verifications and future plans for harmonization



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09.45 – 10.45

HIT 1: Develop a common sampling methodology

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During this session, participants will:

- learn about the regulatory framework and guidance 2014-2020 on risk-based verifications and sampling
- start developing a common sampling methodology

10.45 – 11.15

Coffee Break

11.15 – 13.00

HIT 2: National Control Checklist, Report and Certificate

Interact programme

During this session, participants will:

- provide input on what should stay and what should be amended in the national control HIT documents for post 2020
- what else should be harmonized?

Summary, Outlook

End of Workshop

Farewell lunch