

# INTERREG IPA-CBC programmes finance meeting



20-21 November 2019  
IPA–CBC programmes finance meeting  
Hotel Mercure Wien Westbahnhof  
Vienna, Austria





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### Outlines

Interreg IPA-CBC programmes, together with Interreg CBC and ENI programmes form goal 2, widely known as Interreg or European Territorial Cooperation under the EU Cohesion Policy.

Interreg IPA-CBC programmes, designed specifically to prepare beneficiary countries for successful participation in the EC cohesion policy after accession, are functioning under a single instrument and legal framework, the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance. Legal, administrative and technical framework of IPA-CBC programmes has its own specificities as compared to Interreg CBC programmes.

Due to a high interest from IPA-CBC programmes in Interreg network meetings (e.g., Interreg CBC financial network or CA network), Interact has realised demand and need to address specific IPA-CBC issues and discuss them in depth. For this reason, Interact initialises regular IPA-CBC programmes finance related meetings to exchange on specific challenges and practices these programmes meet during programme financial implementation.

We also aim to discuss public procurement issues during the event.

### Objectives

This meeting aims to establish a forum for Interreg IPA-CBC programmes representatives to discuss their current challenges and/or opportunities related to programme financial implementation.

### Target group

Interreg IPA-CBC programmes authorities; i.e., managing authorities, joint secretariats, as well as national authorities working with these specific programmes.



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Day one                      Wednesday, 20 November 2019

08.30 – 09.00              Registration

09.00 – 10.00              Introduction, current state of implementation

- Presentation
- Group work

Objectives of the session: to familiarise ourselves with the current situation of the Interreg IPA-CBC programmes implementation and identify reasons for implementation delays.

10.00 – 11.00              Gold plating or why do we overdo controls?

- Group work
- Presentation and plenary discussions

During the session, participants will discuss and exchange on possibilities and limitations of lifting the administrative burden in audit and control.

11.00 – 11.30              Coffee break

11.30 – 13.00              SCOs and management verifications and control of SCOs

- Presentation
- Group work

Objectives of the session: to get an overview of different programme's SCOs practices; to discuss how to report SCOs (from beneficiary perspective), how to verify SCOs and what needs to be verified (from the programme perspective). We will also look into the compliance of SCOs with public procurement and state aid and discuss potential errors and risks associated with SCOs.

13.00 – 14.00              Lunch break

14.00 – 15.00              Challenges we face

- Presentations of current challenges by:
  - Davor Skočibušić, Croatia-Serbia
  - Anđelka Hajdek, Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Montenegro
- Other finance-related issues

Objectives of the session: to jointly discuss strategies and approached for solving finance – related issues with the programme implementation



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- 15.00 – 15.30    An elephant in the room – financial instruments?
- Presentation
- During the session, participants will get on overview of an alternative to grants delivery mechanism, i.e., financial instruments and their possibilities in the ESIF.
- 15.30 – 15.45    Coffee break
- 15.45 – 16.45    Post 2020
- Short presentation on IPA-CBC related changes
  - Discussion
- During the session, participants will get on overview of the main novelties included in the proposed regulatory for 2021 - 2027 and will have an opportunity to exchange on first opinions.
- 16.45 – 17.00    Wrap up
- 19.00              Networking dinner



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Day two                      Thursday, 21 November 2019

09.00 – 09.30      Recap of the Day 1 and warm-up

09.30 – 10.30      Identification of challenges regarding public procurement  
Interact

10.30 – 13.00      How are we implementing external public procurement rules?  
Discussion of main challenges and solution proposals  
In this session, together we will try to identify what are the most  
relevant bottlenecks in implementation of public procurement.

(11.00 – 11.30      Exchange of experiences on already found solutions or answers on  
Coffee break)      critical questions will be strongly encouraged

Programmes' examples (tbc)  
Presentations, Q&A

13.00 – 14.00      **Lunch break**

14.00 – 17.00      Group work

(15.30 – 16.00      How to improve procurement process  
Coffee break)      Based on main challenges identified in this session, together we will  
try to identify what are the solutions or answers on critical questions

Public procurement post 2020 – What changes it brings and how to  
implement them?

17.00 – 17.15      Closure of the event and next steps



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