



European Commission consultation day on INTERREG III programme closure

06 November 2008 Madrid

Objectives and methodology

This event has been organised to provide invited programmes with an opportunity to discuss their current financial situation and the implications this may have for closure. Programmes will be able to talk through all aspects of the programme procedure and make sure that all necessary steps have been taken for smooth closure.

Working sessions will take place with DG Regional Policy desk officers and the European Commission expert who will be working most closely with processing INTERREG III programme final claims and calculating the final payments. Closure calculation simulations of three programme examples will be presented based on real data. The presentation will include a step by step simulation of a closure calculation exercise through the examples of three programmes. It will focus on the expenditure expected to be declared at closure, potential problem areas, corrective actions still possible before 31 December 2008 and treatment of irregularities.

For the second part of the day, a panel of Commission experts together with INTERACT staff will be available for wider discussions on closure related issues addressing both financial aspects and programme achievements as reflected in the final report. The panel and the programmes attending the event will be able to discuss also the questions raised during the closure seminar held by INTERACT in Brussels in April of this year, as well as during the latest DG Regional Policy seminar on closure and updates on European Commission expectations for final reporting.

Target groups and participants

The event is aimed at those responsible for day-to-day management of the programme and its finances as well as staff carrying out closure audits and preparing the winding up declaration.

Several programmes from this area are being asked to attend. Each programme should coordinate its participation and should, in principle, be represented by not more than three staff members per programme. Because of space availability and more efficient working sessions, participation will be restricted.

Practical details - Registration

The seminar is free but all participants must pay their own travel and accommodation costs. To register for the event please use our online registration service with at the following link:

<http://event.interact-eu.net/227138/987893/0/1101>

Additional information on the venue, accommodation and transport will be sent to confirmed participants. Please contact us if you have not received confirmation two weeks after registering.

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Agenda

08.30 - 09.00	Welcome coffee and registration
09.00 -10.45	<p>Presentation on the key points at closure (bad examples from the past to avoid, the run up to closure, preparation of closure documents, quality of closure documents, OLAF and irregularities, closure letter, questions and answers register)</p> <p>Danielle Roelants - DG Regional Policy, Financial Assistant to the Director for Territorial Cooperation</p>
10.45 - 11.15	Coffee break
11.15 - 12.30	<p>Financial simulation of closure through three programme examples - step by step presentation of the financial calculation methods and key aspects.</p> <p>Danielle Roelants - DG Regional Policy, Financial Assistant to the Director for Territorial Cooperation</p> <p>Each session will be followed by a question and answer session</p>
12.30-14.00	Buffet Lunch
14.00-15.30	<p>Panel and group discussion sessions about the closure process (audits, reporting, content, results): Discussion of the closure questions received by DG Regional Policy from earlier seminars and specific or additional questions from the programmes.</p> <p>With the participation of DG Regional Policy Territorial Cooperation desk officers, other units and INTERACT staff.</p>
15.30-16.00	Coffee break
16.00-17.00	Plenary session with conclusions
17.00	End of event

Working language

The working language will be French and English. If requested and to ensure that most participants will be able to contribute to the discussion, INTERACT can provide interpretation in Spanish and Portuguese for the morning session, while in the afternoon different groups can work in different languages.