





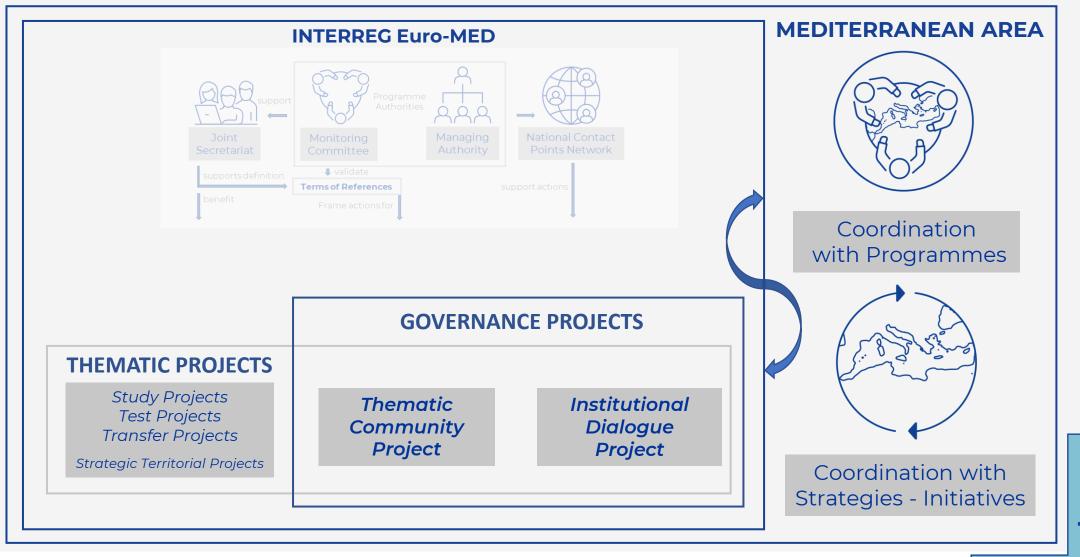






# Project management

# **Programme Architecture**









# **Interreg Euro-Med**

# **Programme Bodies**





### Project management team

### Who are they?

#### Subsidy Contract

#### **Lead Partner (LP)**

- Project coordinator- thematic coordination and mobilising the partnership
- Financial manager financial monitoring and management of the project budget

#### **Project partner (PP)**

- Project coordinator contribution to project activities and reports toward the LP
- Declaration of costs to the NC online with Programme rules and procedures





- Do not receive any Interreg funding
- **Participation** to project activities and events
- Must appear in the approved Application Form and costs for participation to events can be born by the PP jagreed in adavnce

#### **Key profiles among PPs**

- Communication officer project communication activities, collaboration with the thematic community
- Coordinator for result amplification actively participate in the activities of the thematic community, ensure transferability of project productions, RAS within the PPs
- Coordinator for carbon footprint strategy for the reduction of the project's carbon footprint, ensures that project activities are designed to minimize emissions;, use of the calculation tool,
- **Data Controller and Data Protection Officer** legal obligation





# **Project Key documents**

- Consolidated **Application Form** + annexes for each PP
- **Subsidy Contract** signed by the LP and the MA + addendum
- Partnership Agreement signed by the LP and each PP + updated versions
- Payment claims validated by the LP on Jems + Control report and certificates
- **Project reports**
- Steering Committee Rules of procedures and Minutes/decisions
- Project material and key productions
- **Audit trail** related to costs + Task assignment templates

# Still have some doubts?

- Programme Manual (updated
- Terms of References of the call
- Guidelines for controller designation and control work
- Tutorials
- Guidance on costs reporting (under production)
- Basecamp User Manual
- WordPress User Manual an
- Brandbook



# **Project Key tools**

#### **Monitoring tool - Jems**

- Under development (developing by Interact)
- All support request should send to <u>support@interreg-euro-med.eu</u>
- Workflows supported by Jems: application, contracting, reporting, modification of the project
- Guidelines under production (NC, PPs, NAs etc)



### **Cooperative work tool - Basecamp**

Support the daily work of the partnership and the JS
 Not accessible to NCs

#### Webpage of the Programme - interreg-euro-med.eu

Updated List of contacts, Programme Manual, Guidelines, Templates, FAQ

#### <u>Euro-MED carbon footprint calculator – carbonfootprint.interreg-euro-med.eu</u>

Support the monitoring of the carbon footprint of the projects











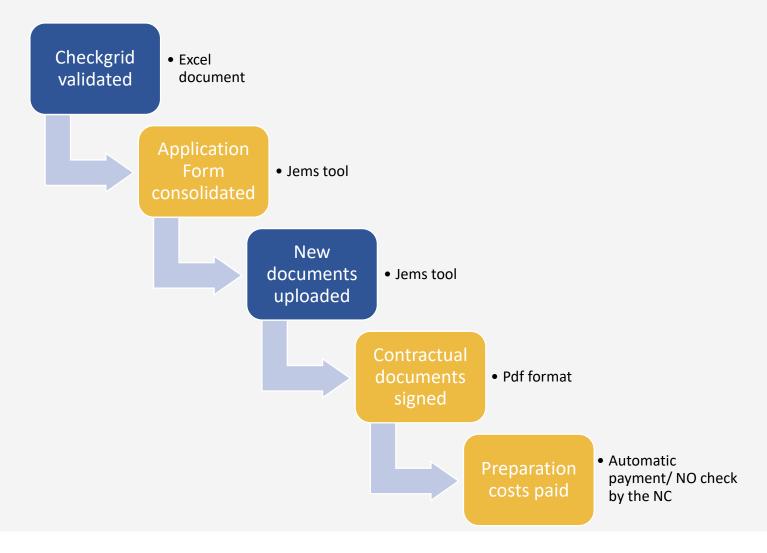






# **Initial steps**

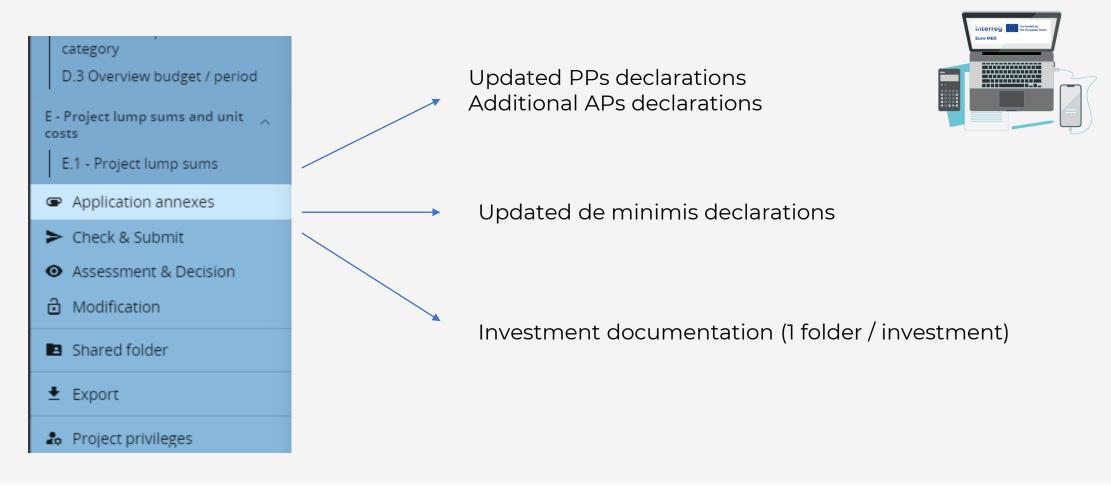
### In a nutshell





# **Precontracting phase**

### LP must upload Key documents





### **Contracting phase**

### Signature of contractual documents

- 1. <u>Partnership Agreement</u>: between LP and project partners
  - one page per partner
  - signed either by hand (wet ink) or electronically
  - must be uploaded by the LP on Jems ("contracts and key dates" section)
- 2. Subsidy Contract: between the LP and the Programme
  - in case of Electronic signature (with Adobe sign only): the JS sends it to the LP (no obligation for the LP to have a digital signature)
  - in case of wet ink signature: must be sent signed (in duplicate) to the JS by regular post
  - will be uploaded by the JS on Jems ("contracts and key dates" section)

SAME FORMAT for all signatories !!!



### Project start up

#### **Preparation costs payment**

- No payment request needed. Automatically paid upon signature of the subsidy contract by both parties
- Total of 37.000 € project (29.600€ of Interreg Funds)

#### Selection of Controller Art. 74(1a) Reg (EU) 1060/2021 and 45(3) Reg (EU) 1059/2021

- Centralised system: Designated by National Authority. Partners must contact their NA to know their Controllers.
- **Decentralised system**: Partners must contact their National Authority <u>as soon as possible</u> to know how to designate and approve their Controllers.

#### **Project Steering Committee**

- 1st SC within 3 months after project start
- Send the minutes to the JS







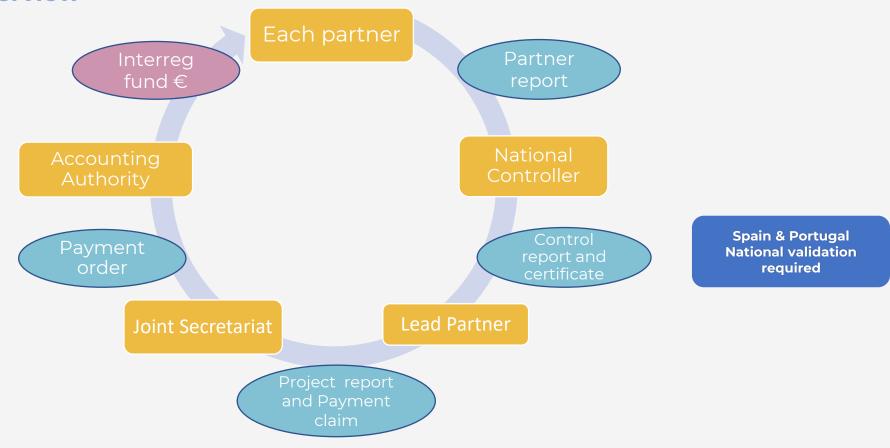






### **Project lifetime**

Financial flow overview





#### **NATIONAL CONTROL SYSTEMS**

CENTRALISED SYSTEM	DECENTRALISED SYSTEM
Albania	Cyprus
Bosnia and Herzegovina	France
Brussels-Capital Region*	Italy
Bulgaria	Malta
Croatia	Portugal**
Greece	Spain**
Montenegro	Flandres*
North Macedonia	
Slovenia	

<sup>\*</sup> Region located outside the Interreg Euro Med Programme Cooperation Area





<sup>\*\*</sup> In Spain and Portugal (decentralised national system) expenditure certified by controllers must also be validated at national level in order to be included in a project Payment Claim

### **National controller**

### **Types of control**

The verification of expenditure carried out by the NC can be done through two different types of controls:

Administrative verifications (i.e. desk-based verifications)

most frequent method of implementing controls, the desk-based control or "administrative verification" is implemented by the NC from its headquarters and is based on documents and material provided by the project partners whose expenditure is being controlled

#### On-the-spot verifications (OTS)

It allows to check the existence and delivery of goods and services as well as the accuracy of the management system put in place in each partner structure and the existence of accounting documents forming the audit trail. It is **mandatory in case of projects involving investments**!









### **National controller**

#### Role and duties

#### NC must:

- check the compliance with the **Programme's and national eligibility rules**
- verify and **validate** partner's expenditures included in a partner report
- Detect and report fraud and irregularity
- complete the checklist(s) and generate the Control Report and certificate
- Control Work must be tracked in **Jems**
- Good knowledge of controlling project expenditure under the **Structural Funds** Regulations

> Timeline (including validation from Spain/Portugal for concerned PPs): LP must submit

the RP 3 months after the end of the reporting period

Joint Electronic Monitoring system



Access granted by the NA/NCAA/JS

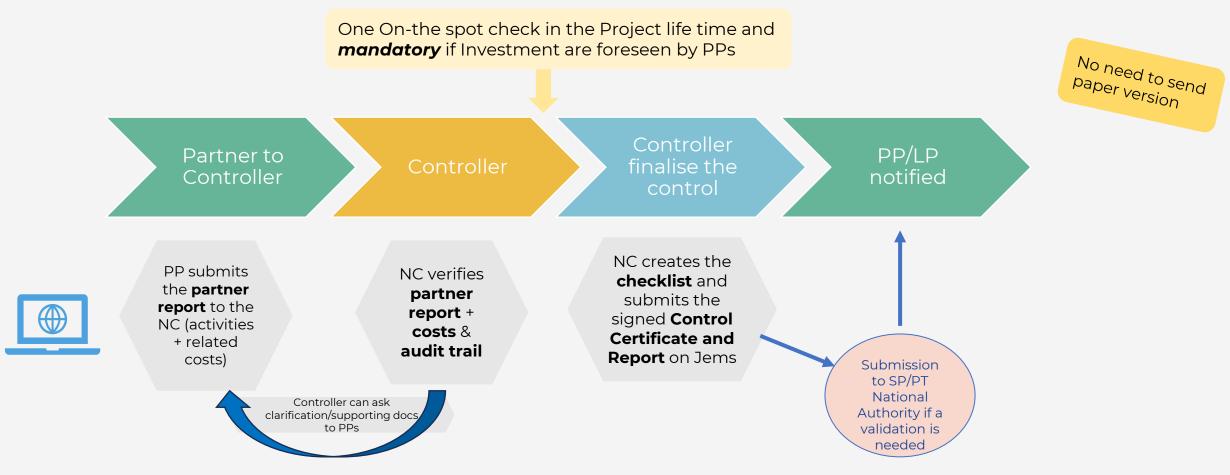




Information on each National Control System is available in the Programme's website



# The control process



Deadlines for project reporting set up in **JEMS** > **Project Reporting Schedule's section** 













# Reporting procedure

### Tools and key's documents overview

### **Activity and financial** reporting

- Partner Report
- Activity and Financial Reporting
- National Control Report and Certificate
- Submission of the Reporting Package
- JS Monitoring Coherence Check

# Basecamp Jems **Project** Manual, tutorials website and templates

#### Manual:

Section II. E Project reporting and Joint Secretariat monitoring

#### **Daily** monitoring

- Project exchanges
- Reporting on key deliverables
- Main project management documents
- Carbon footprint reports
- Working documents
- Project interactions

#### Communication

- Validated key deliverables
- News, events, forms...
- Online questionnaire

#### **Guidance and standards**

- Reporting procedures
- Ad-hoc tutorials
- Reporting on communication data
- Other specific JS requests

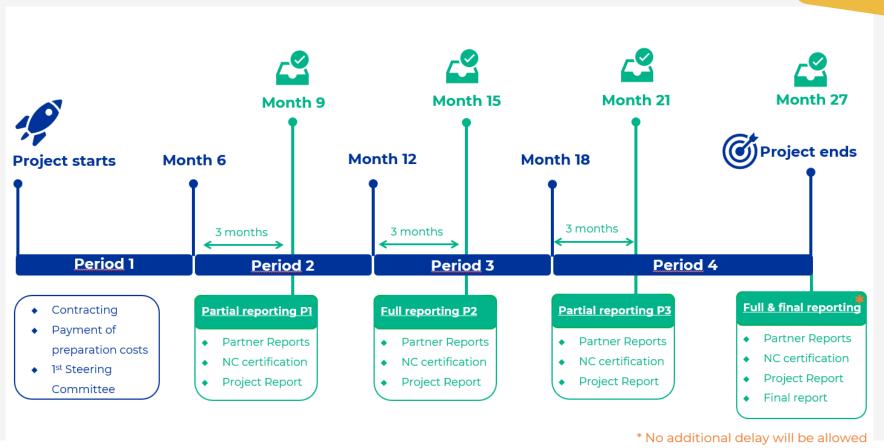




# **Project Reporting timeline**

**Project implementation (example: 27 months project)** 

Monitoring meetings: to be defined depending on level of risk



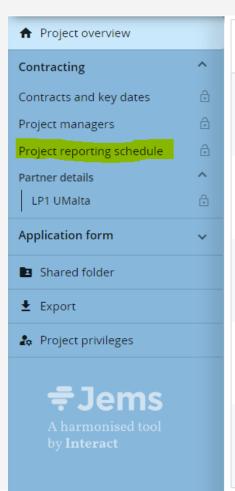


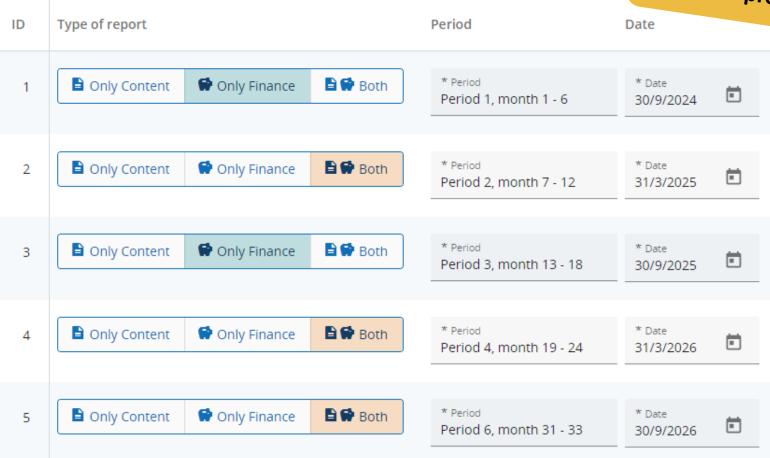


# **Project Reporting Schedule**

Example: 33months project











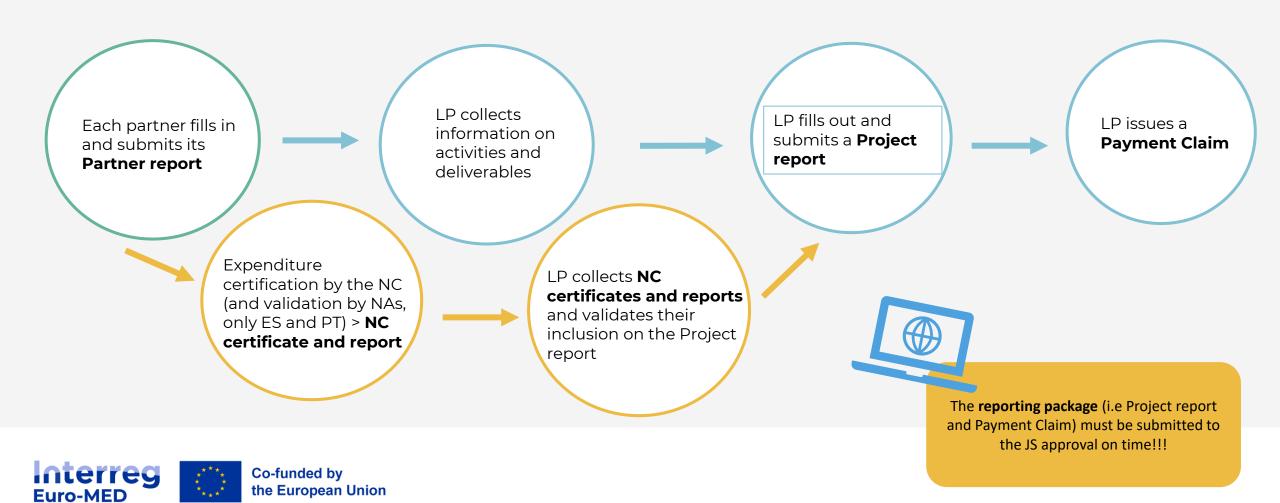
# Reporting procedure:

the European Union

general overview

When ready, **finalised** versions of the key deliverables are uploaded on **Basecamp** by the LP

The JS validates the Key deliverables, and they are published on Jems for subsequent publication



# **Reporting Procedure**

### **Partial and full Reporting**

After each reporting period:

- Each partner claiming costs (including the LP) must submit in **Jems**:
  - At least 1 partner report
  - 1 National Control Certificate(s) and report (+ National Validation where needed)

The **Lead Partner** must submit in Jems a **REPORTING PACKAGE** composed of

- 1 project report :
  - Partial reporting (after periods 1, 3, 5....) > partial version of the project report
  - Full reporting > full version of the project report
- 1 payment claim
- A report on ineligible expenditures, if relevant
- The PPs "control package", (all documents related to the National certification of PPs expenditures).



# Life cycle of a Reporting Package

Partner report + Control Package: National Control Certificate and Report is signed and submitted in Jems



LP gathers all PPs materials, creates the Project Report and submits the Payment claim



The **Reporting Package** is sent to the **JS** 

The **JS** starts the **administrative** and **control check** 

The MA validates the JS verifications, and prepares the payment order to be addressed to the Accounting Authority

The **Accounting Authority** carries out the payments, in favour directly of each partner

Good quality information allows a smoother assessment by the JS



### **Project partner**

### Role and responsibility in the Reporting process

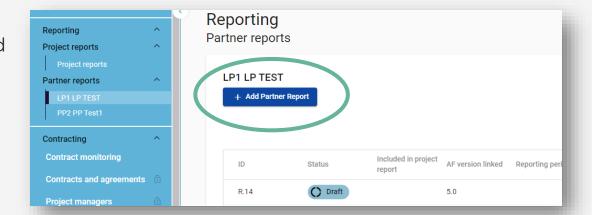
#### Project partners must:

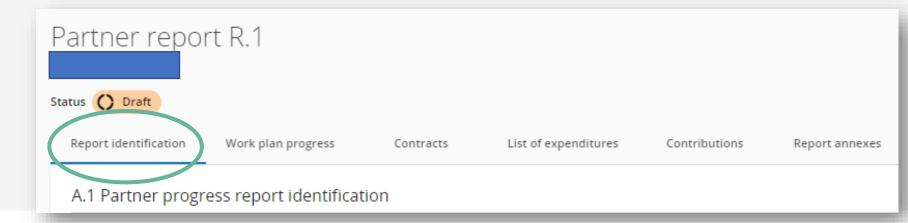
- ✓ Comply with the terms of the subsidy contract and partnership agreement
- ✓ Ensure that a **National Controller (NC)** <u>is designated</u> as soon as possible after project approval
- ✓ Implement activities according to the consolidated AF
- ✓ **Submit on-time activities and costs** (partner report) **to the NC** + supporting documentation via JEMS (planning to be agreed with the LP and respective NC)
- ✓ Ensure that the complete documentation is made available on time to the LP (signed version of the certificate + checklist duly completed)



- **Jems**

- Includes both activity and financial reporting
- Compulsory for all the partners (including LP) reporting costs
- The PP lists all the expenses incurred in a specific reporting period
- For the activity reporting, the project must fill in at least the
   "Report identification" section







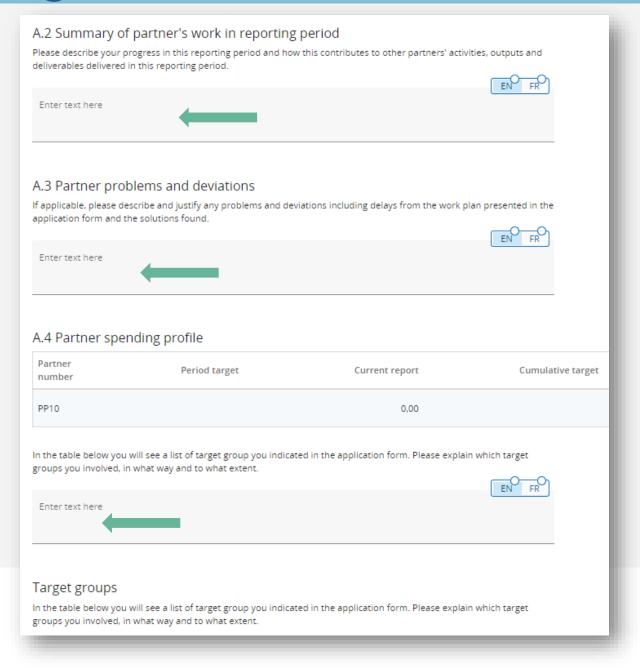


### **Activity reporting**

The "Report identification" section includes:

- Summary of partner's work in reporting period
- Partner's problems and deviations
- Partner spending profile (automatically filled)
- Target groups

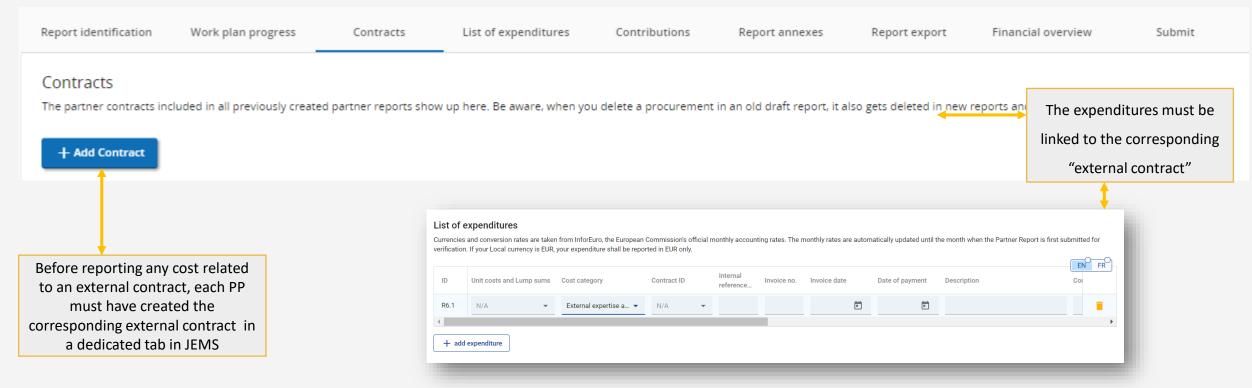
Reporting on the work plan progress can be required by the Lead Partner or the NC





### **Financial reporting**

**First step** before checking expenditures, have a look at **external contracts**!

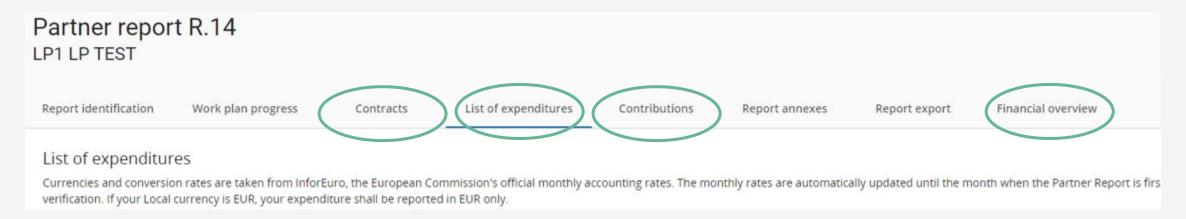






### **Financial reporting**





All **financial sections** of the Partner report are compulsory:

- Contracts
- List of expenditures
- Contributions
- Financial overview (automatically filled)



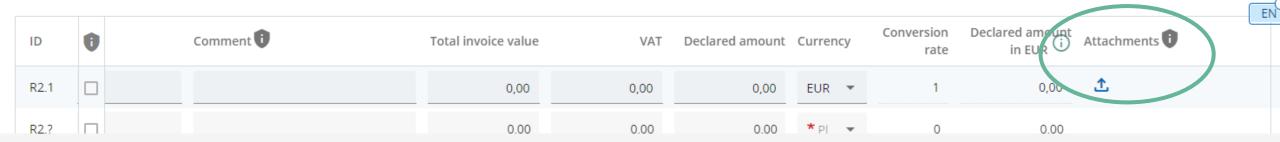
### Financial reporting: where to add the attachments

Please consult your NCP for any doubts concerning the audit trail

You can add **ONE** attachment to each expenditure (**ZIP file or merged PDF**)

#### List of expenditures

Currencies and conversion rates are taken from InforEuro, the European Commission's official monthly accounting rates. The monthly rates are automatically updated until the month when the Partner Report is first submitted verification. If your Local currency is EUR, your expenditure shall be reported in EUR only.



ATTENTION: You must SAVE the expenditure and you shall attach document

**ONLY AFTER SAVING** 



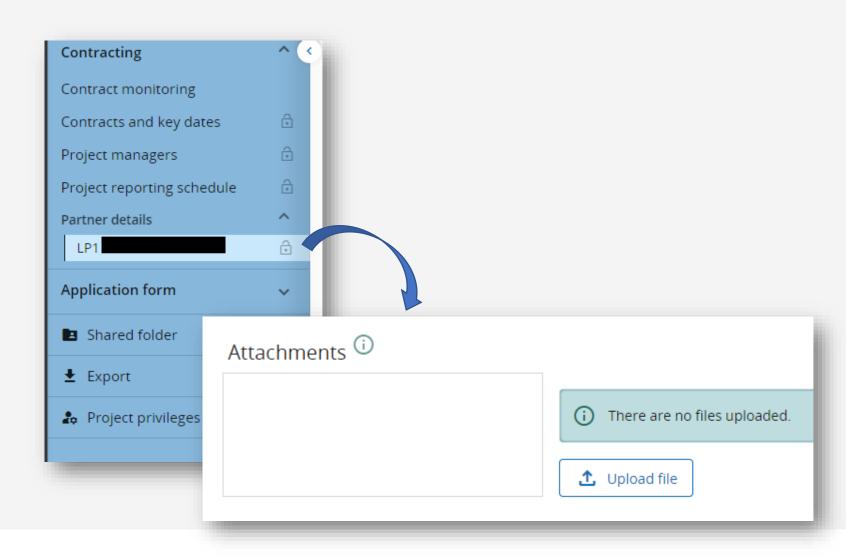




### Financial reporting: where to add the attachments

**Exception**: the **staff tasks assignment templates (STAT)** 

Each partner must attach the updated tasks assignment to their corresponding **partner details** section





# Financial reporting: sensitive data on expenditures



Some of the fields of the staff costs expenditures can be declared as sensitive data:

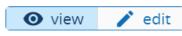
Expenditures' description, comment and attachments.

Partners can hide the sensitive data by clicking on the little square at the beginning of the expenditure item:

The LP can choose the Jems users of each PP that can have access to the sensitive data in the **project privileges** section, by activating the **sensitive data option** 

This option **must** always be active for the LP user







ID

R2.1

R2.?



Previo





### Starting the control work

#### Partner Report is submitted







The controller can start the **control work**, by clicking on "start control".

Partner Report's status moves to "control ongoing".



#### The controller can open the control report and start the verifications:

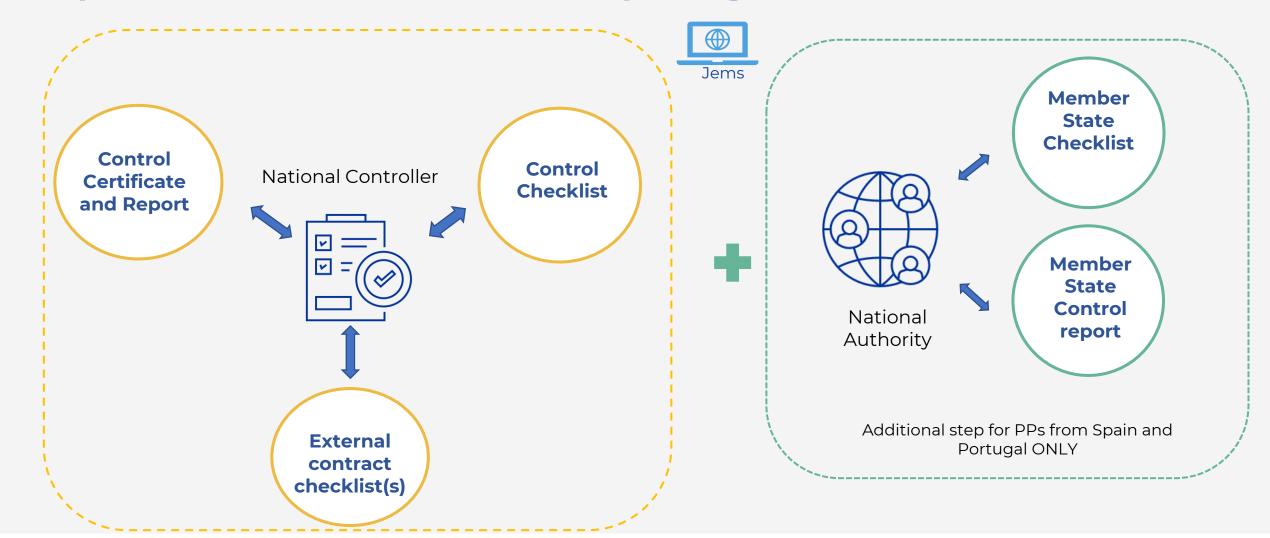
- Control identification
- Control checklist: the NC must generate and upload a checklist with guestions regarding the control of expenditures and eventual checklists on external contracts
- Expenditure verification: corrections and possibility to park expenditures
- Control documents: the NC has the possibility to ask for supporting documents to clarify expenditures items
- Overview and finalize: the NC generates and uploads the Control Certificate and Report





# Partner Report and Control package in a nutshell

Composition of a receivable "control package"

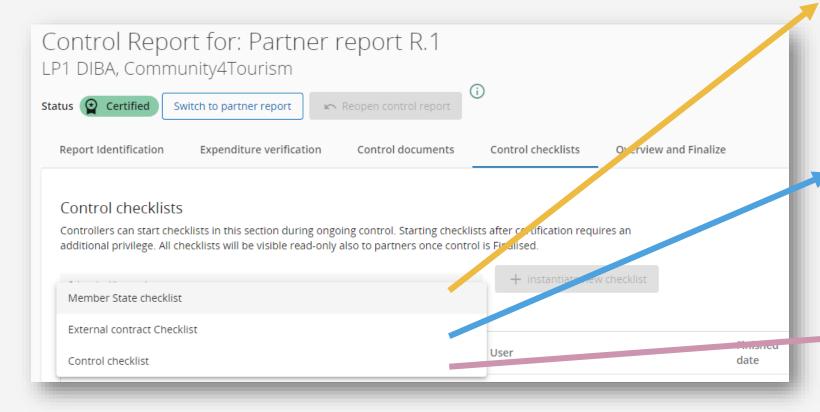






**Control checklists** 

The LP **must** check and ensure that all checklists are complete and finalized before including a certificate in a Project report



Member State Checklist (only for Spanish and Portuguese PPs): After the end of the control work and before the submission of the payment claim.

- rew external contract Checklist: One for every new external contract linked to the expenditures (NC must add the contract id in the "comment" field).
- Control checklist: Redline for the control task! It contains questions on:
  - Accounting system
  - Bank account
  - Audit trail





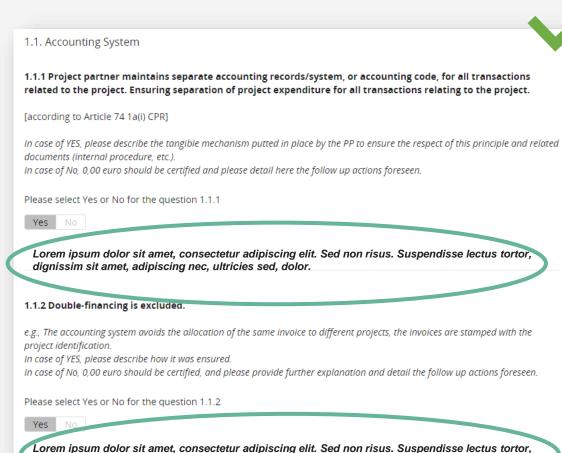
## Partner Report and Control package

#### **Control checklists**



#### Control checklist: for the 2 first questions, if answer is YES, a justification MUST be provided.

## 1.1. Accounting System 1.1.1 Project partner maintains separate accounting records/system, or accounting code, for all transactions related to the project. Ensuring separation of project expenditure for all transactions relating to the project. [according to Article 74 1a(i) CPR] In case of YES, please describe the tangible mechanism putted in place by the PP to ensure the respect of this principle and related documents (internal procedure, etc.). In case of No, 0,00 euro should be certified and please detail here the follow up actions foreseen. Please select Yes or No for the question 1.1.1 Yes No 1.1.2 Double-financing is excluded. e.g., The accounting system avoids the allocation of the same invoice to different projects, the invoices are stamped with the project identification. In case of YES, please describe how it was ensured. In case of No, 0,00 euro should be certified, and please provide further explanation and detail the follow up actions foreseen. Please select Yes or No for the question 1.1.2



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## Partner Report and Control package

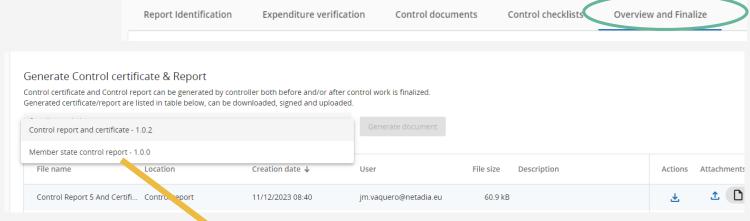
**Control Work** 

**EACH Controller** is responsible of generating the **NATIONAL CONTROL CERTIFICATE AND REPORT** 

It is an essential document for the audit trail to claim costs incurred by each PP

Generated, downloaded and signed by the NC or reviewer, after submission of the control report

Signed version (wet ink or electronic) is uploaded on JEMS





#### **Member State control report (only for**

**Spanish and Portuguese PPs):** generated, downloaded, signed and uploaded by the National Authority after submission of the finalized control report.



National Control Certificate and Report must be generated AFTER finalizing the control report





## **Point of Attention on Reporting!**

YES

- Should a PP not be able to produce a National Control Certificate and Report in time, expenditures can be submitted in the following Reporting Period!
- Parked expenditures can be resubmitted by PP in the following reporting period
- If the National Control Certificate and/or Report is submitted and needs to be re-opened, an express request must be sent by the NC to I P and JS



 It is not possible to include costs that have been paid out after the end of the reporting period of a progress report



Ct: National Control guidelines

NO





## Life cycle of a Reporting Package

## Partner report – Control Package: National Control Certificate and Report is signed and submitted in Jems



LP gathers all PPs materials, creates the **Project Report** and submits the Payment claim



The **Reporting Package** is sent to the **JS** 

The **JS** starts the **administrative** and **control check** 

The MA validates the JS verifications, and prepares the payment order to be addressed to the Accounting Authority

The **Accounting Authority** carries out the payments, in favour directly of each partner

Good quality information allows a smoother assessment by the JS



## **Lead partner**

#### Role and responsibility in the Reporting process

Payment Claim statement from the LP

Before submitting the Project Report LP MUST ensure that:

- the expenditure reported by all partners result from implementing the project (> list of expenditure)
- National Validation from Spain and Portugal is available (> national validation )
- a tangible system to prevent double-funding and to identify project expenditures exists for each Project Partner and is described in the control checklist(s) (> NC checklists)
- the cumulated certified amount for each Project Partner is less or equal to the available budget
- no anomalies have been detected among expenditure and activities > the report on ineligible costs must be attached to the payment claim
- the signed version of the Control Report and Certificate is available for each PP



## **Project Reporting Schedule**

## **Example: 33-months project**

#### Jems

#### After every reporting period, the Lead Partner must submit a Project Report







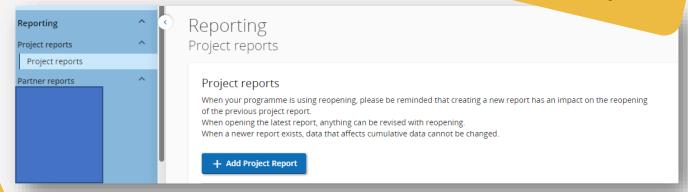


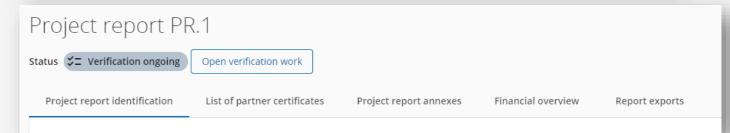
## **Project report: Partial and Full reporting**

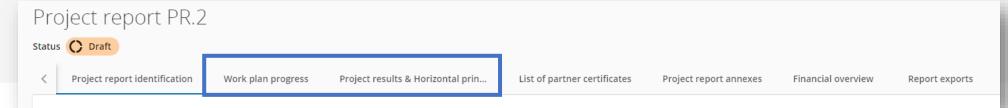
available on the Website

1 report, 2 different types of reporting: Partial reporting (after periods 1, 3, 5....) and Full reporting.

During partial reporting, the sections "work plan progress" and "project results and horizontal principles" of the Project report are not required.



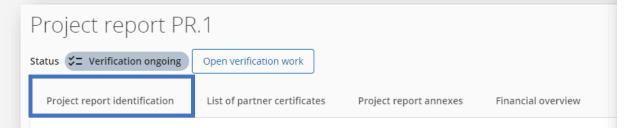








## **Project Report: Activity reporting**



The "**Project report identification**" tab: basic information to evaluate the progress of the project during the period.

It MUST BE FILLED IN and includes:

- Highlights of main achievements
- Outputs and results overview (automatically filled)
- Project problems and deviations (includes carbon footprint, only for full reporting)
- Target groups: only for full reporting



Highlights	of main	achievements
------------	---------	--------------

Please describe project progress up to now including specific objectives reached and main outputs delivered by highlighting also the added-value of the cooperation. The summary should highlight main achievements, be interesting and understandable for non-specialists.

#### Outputs and results overview

Programme Result Indicator 31PSI: Organisations with increased institutional capacity due to their participation in cooperation activities across borders

Programme Result Indicator 31104: Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations

#### Project performance monitoring

If applicable, please describe and justify any problems and deviations including delays from the work plan presented in the application form and the solutions found. Please also detail any deviations in the spending profile compared to the amounts indicated in the application form. In case of specific problem, mention the name of the PP concerned.



Please provide the carbon footprint analysis required in the project manual (II.E.vii) (full reporting only)



#### Target groups

In the table below, you will see a list of the target groups you indicated in the application form. Please explain for each target group in what way and to what extent they were involved in your project in this reporting period.

## **Project Report: Activity reporting**

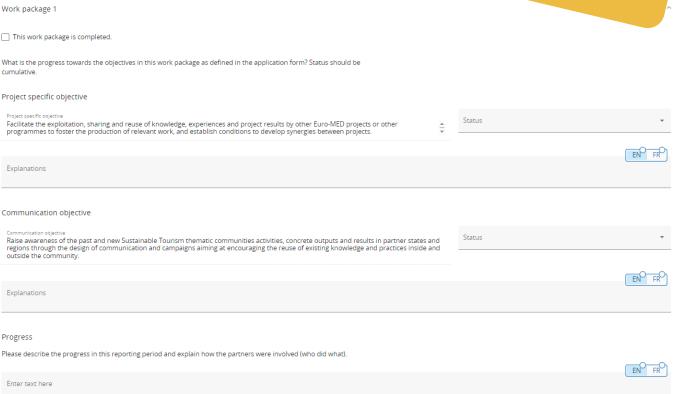


Hidden by the system during Partial Reporting

In the "Work plan progress", and the "Project results and Horizontal principles" sections, the LP must report in detail the progress in the development of the work plan and objectives of the project. The LP must indicate the status and the progress for every:

- Work package: project specific objective and communication objective
- Activity, deliverable and investment
- Output
- Result
- Horizontal principle



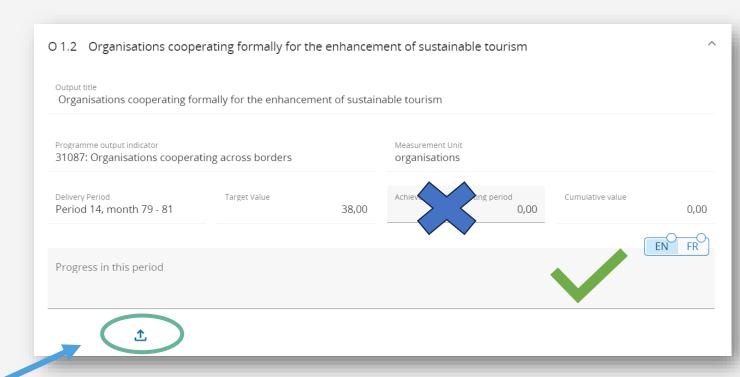


Quantification of outputs and results is only requested in the final report

Progress in Horizontal principles is only requested in the final report

## **Project Report: Reporting on outputs, results and indicators**

- The LP collects information from the PPs and includes it on the Project Report in a synthetize way
- Quantitative information on indicators performance is provided during final reporting
- The LP must follow all reporting requirements and criteria set by the programme.
- Key deliverables and outputs (a.k.a. key productions) must be uploaded on Basecamp as soon as they are ready, and on Jems after their validation by the JS.







## **Project report: Partial and Full reporting**

PARTIAL REPORTING	FULL REPORTING
Project report Identification	Project report Identification
	Work plan progress
	Project results and horizontal principles
List of partner certificates	List of partner certificates
Project report annexes	Project report annexes
Financial Overview	Financial Overview
> Submit	> Submit

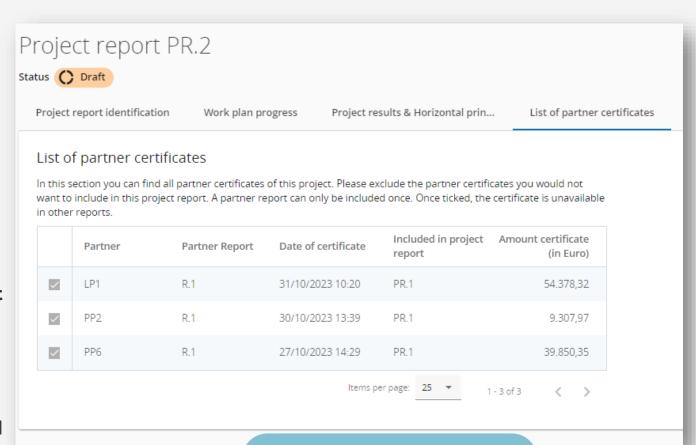


# Reporting Package Project Report: Financial reporting

In the "**list of partner certificates**" section, the LP, after verification of the expenditures, selects the certificates that will be included in the finalized Project report and whose reimbursement will be requested through the Payment Claim.

Only complete certificates, with all checklists and certificates, including the Member State Control report for PPs from Spain and Portugal, duly filled and attached must be included in the project report.

The "financial overview" section presents summary of all the expenditure included in the report.



All available certificates are automatically selected by the system. The LP must de-select all certificates not to be included in the report



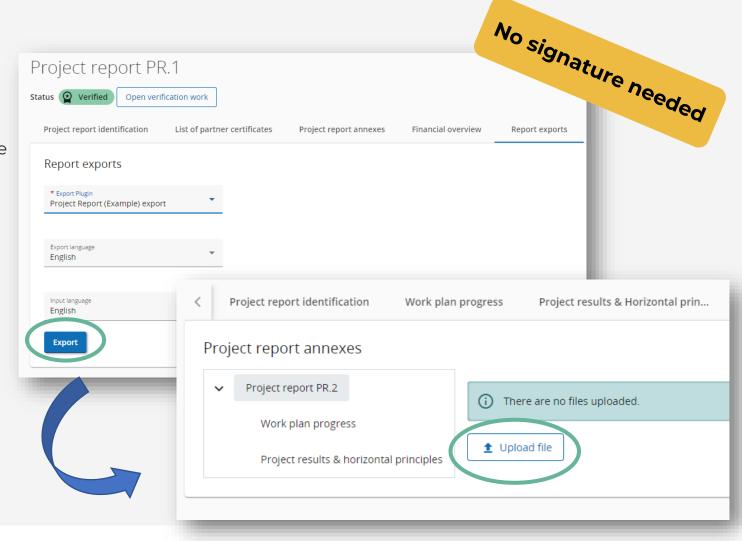
## **Project Report submission and Payment Claim**

Once completed, the LP submits the Project report.

After the submission, the LP must generate and attach the "PAYMENT CLAIM", a document which represents the official reimbursement request for the Interreg Funds corresponding to the certificates included in the Partner Report.

The document can be generated in the "report exports" section, and it must be uploaded in the "Project report annexes" section.

If there are **anomalies** in the expenditures to be reported to the JS, the LP must fill in a **report on ineligible costs**, which can be generated and uploaded in a similar way







## **Payment Claim**

#### 2. Lead Partner declaration

In the role of Lead partner of the project, I confirm, for the purposes of reimbursement of expenditure by the Programme, that:

- all documents presented in the present reporting package correspond to expenditure incurred as part of the project as described in the consolidated application form;
- for each certificate included in the payment claim, a checklist has been completed by the National Controller and where applicable, the Portuguese and Spanish national validations have been signed and are available on Jems;
- a tangible system to prevent double-funding and to identify project expenditures exists for each
  Project Partner and is correctly described in the control checklist(s) attached to the control report (e.
  g. separate accounts, electronic identification code attached to the operation, stamp cancelling
  invoices, etc);
- the cumulated certified amount for each Project Partner is less or equal to the amount available in the Partner budget;
- no anomalies have been detected among the certified expenditure and the activities included in this
  reporting package, otherwise the report on ineligible costs is attached to this claim;
- the above-mentioned amount will be paid directly to each partner in accordance with the breakdown presented in point 3 and after deduction of any ineligible amount reported by me or by the competent National Authorities<sup>1</sup> or detected by the MA.





## Life cycle of a Reporting Package

Partner report – Control Package: National Control Certificate and Report is signed and submitted in Jems

Good quality information assessment by the Je

**LP** gathers all PPs materials, creates the **Project Report** and submits the Payment claim



The **Reporting Package** is sent to the **JS** 

The **JS** starts the **administrative** and **control chec**k

The MA validates the JS verifications, and prepares the payment order to be addressed to the Accounting Authority

The **Accounting Authority** carries out the payments, in favour directly of each partner



## **JS verification**

Reporting Package submitted by the LP



#### The JS starts the verification

Section II. E Project
Secretariat monitoring viii.

Manual:
reporting II. E Project
Secretariat monitoring viii.
monitoring

# Reporting Project reports

#### Project reports

When your programme is using reopening, please be reminded that creating a new report has an impact on the reopening of the previous project report.

When opening the latest report, anything can be revised with reopening.

When a newer report exists, data that affects cumulative data cannot be changed.

## + Add Project Report

	ificati
PR.2	Open verification work

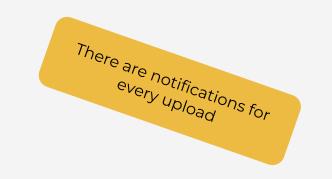


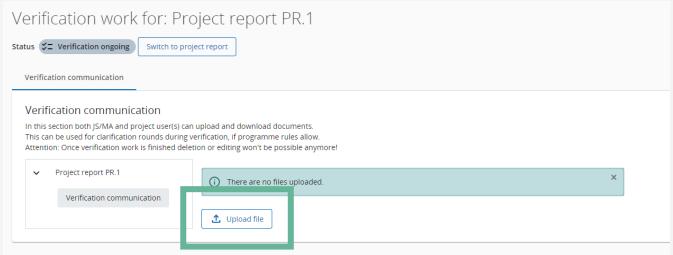


## **JS verification**

## **Clarification Rounds**

# During verification, exchanges JS - LP are 100% carried out through JEMS





- Project Officer Q&A: ACRONYM\_Q&A\_RPOX\_VIJS, afterwards V2, V3... until FINAL.
- LP Reply: **ACRONYM\_Q&A\_RPOX\_VILP**, afterwards V2, V3... until FINAL.
- Attachments sent by the LP: ACRONYME\_Q&A\_RPOX\_VX\_N° question.

Once the final Q&A is uploaded all the intermediary ones can be deleted





## **JS verification**

#### Post-verification final overview





Switch to project report

Verification communication

Overview

#### Overview of verification work for current project report (Euro)

This is the summary of the verification work only for current Project report.

The amounts displayed in this table include flat rates calculated on top for each partner, apart from the column included in verification sample.

Total deducted amounts are calculated as: Total eligible after control - Total eligible after verification - Parked in current report, thus every potential rounding differences will always go to Total deducted in current report column. In some cases, Total deducted may differ from Deducted JS + Deducted NA, due to rounding.

Partner report ID	Partner Total eligible after control (in Euro)	Included in verification	% sampled of total without	Parked in current report (i)	Deducted JS	Deducted NA (ES/PT)	Deducted amount in EUR	Total eligible after verification	% after verification /
Total	0,00 without flat rates 0,00	0,00	%	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	%

#### Total eligible after verification of current report, broken down per financing sources (Euro)

This is the breakdown of amounts eligible after verification of current report, broken down per financing sources and per partner report included in this project report.

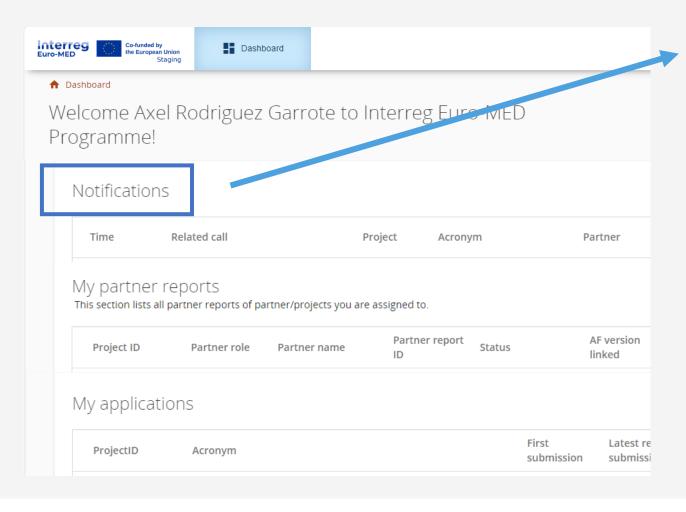
Totals are used as calculation basis. They are the amounts after verification of the project report, including all deductions made in Project expenditure verification tab & flat rates, if any.

Partner Report	Partner Partner contribution (i)	Public contribution (i)	Automatic public contribution (i)	Private contribution (i)	Total
Total	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00



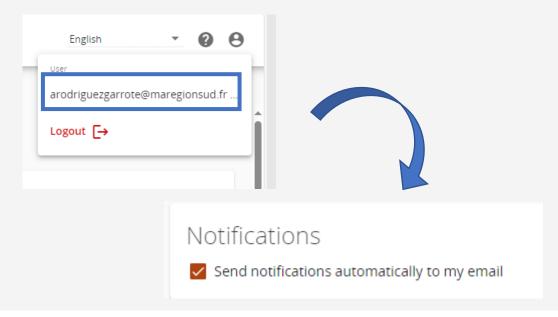


## Jems dashboard and notifications



- Pre-contracting and contracting
- Project modifications
- Project reporting
- Clarification rounds with the JS

You can get notifications on your email

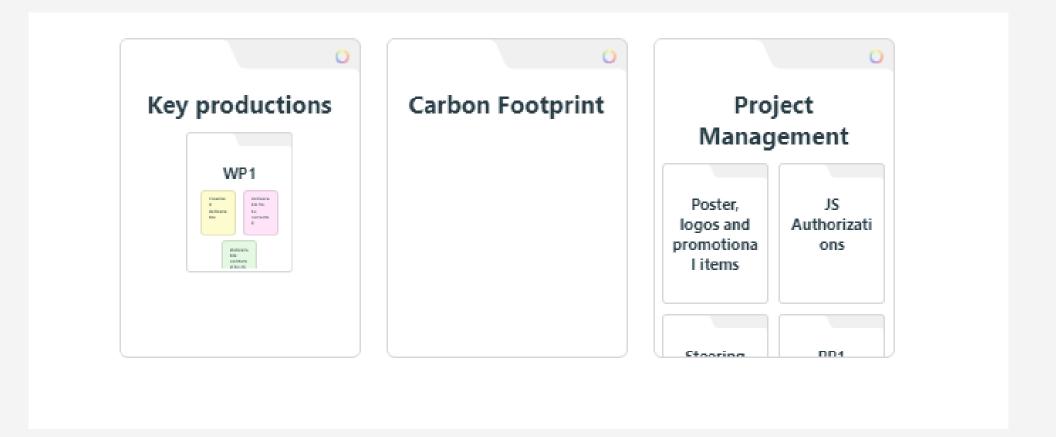






## **Project daily monitoring**

## **Standard folders on Basecamp**











# Project budget Global framework - financial rules



## **Guiding principles**

- Sound financial management: Economy, Efficiency, Effectiveness (Financial Reg 2018/1046)
- Budgeting in Euros and activities to be implemented mainly in the Interreg Euro-MED cooperation area
- Project budget developed in close cooperation with partners
- Project to be developed per budget categories (6) and periods (6 months reporting periods)
- Total project budget must be in line with the work plan



## **Co-financing of operations**

ETC projects are co-financed by the **Interreg Fund** (ERDF + IPA)

- Interreg fund: 80% of the total eligible budget of the project for <u>all</u> partners
- Remaining **20% of the budget** provided by the partners who must ensure the co-financing of their activities by the following sources of funding:
  - Public own contribution
  - Automatic public contribution (i.e. Bulgary, Italy and Greece)
  - Other public contribution
  - Private own contribution
  - Other private contribution

Reminder: Total Budget Max 600 000€ (Study) Max 3 M€ (Test) Max 1 M€ (Transfer)



## Value Added Tax (VAT) Eligibility

According to Article 64 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1060 (CPR) Value Added Tax (VAT) is non eligible, except:

- for operations the total cost of which is below EUR 5 000 000 (including VAT)
- for operations the total cost of which is at least **EUR 5 000 000** (including VAT) where it is non-recoverable under national VAT legislation

In the framework of Interreg Euro-MED, VAT is <u>always eligible</u> as part of project expenditure for all projects with a total cost of less than EUR 5 000 000 (VAT included), <u>except for:</u>

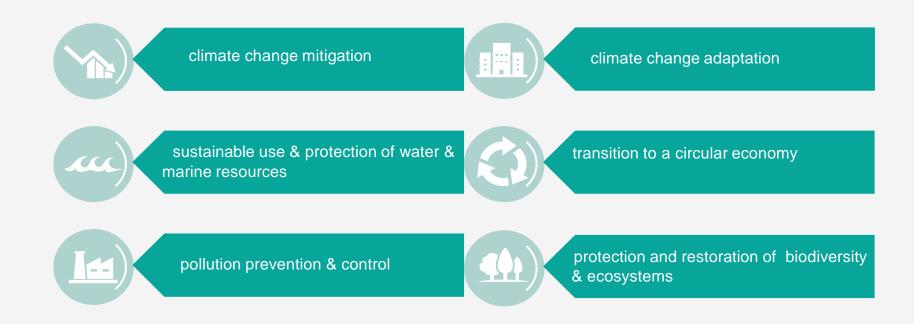


**Project Partner** with an aid granted under **GBER Art 20** cannot, **under any circumstances**, report value added tax (VAT) if it is refundable under their applicable national tax law



## DNSH "Do not significant harm principle"

Investment activities on infrastructure **must** comply with the 'do no significant harm' (DNSH) principle according to which, the above-mentioned activities should not be supporting or carrying out any actions that make a significant harm to any of the **six environmental objectives listed below**:





## DNSH "Do not significant harm principle"

**Investments in infrastructure** must comply with the **DNSH principle**, in practice with the 6 climate and environmental objectives listed in Article 17 of Regulation 2020/852.

To this aim a DNHS **Climate change and Environmental Objectives Screening Grid** is provided by the Joint Secretariat (JS) and has to be completed during the pre contracting phase:

- > 1. no significant harm is deemed by the JS based on the nature of the project, the grid is filled and stored by the JS in JEMS
  - > 2. a potential harm is not excluded by the JS based on the nature of the project; a selfanalysis must be conducted by the PP carrying out the investment If potential significant harm is identified and the investment may have an impact on one or more DNSH objectives, the partner provide an in-depth complementary analysis and an action plan to mitigate the risk.

Partners must keep the documents related to the **DNSH assessment** of their project and make it available for any audit propose:

- > the statements of the **DNHS assessment grid**
- > supporting documents (e.g., environmental certifications / labels, official forms etc.)



## **State Aid**

## **Legal basis**



## Article 107(1) Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

[...] any aid granted by a **Member State** or through **State resources** [...] which distorts or threatens to distort competition by **favouring** certain **undertakings** or the production of certain goods shall [...] be incompatible with the internal market



## The State aid relevance

## **ART 20 GBER and De Minimis (direct State Aid)**

	Strengths	Weaknesses
GBER Art 20	<ul> <li>Simplification scheme for ETC</li> <li>2,2 M€ ceiling per partner and per project</li> <li>Ensuring participation of large audience to ETC</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>No external public co-financing admitted</li> <li>Refundable VAT cannot be reported</li> <li>Administrative burdens (aid to be declared by Programme)</li> </ul>
De Minimis	<ul> <li>No need of declaration to the EC</li> <li>Good scheme for small partners not often in ETC projects</li> <li>External public co-financing admitted</li> <li>Refundable VAT could be reported</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Low participation of the partners to Programmes with MA located in France</li> <li>Financial constraints for partners</li> <li>Administrative burdens: last 3 years aid to be declared by partners (self- declaration))</li> <li>Limiting the possibility of future collaborations (300 K€ in three years)</li> </ul>

State aid relevance: the implementation of the activity in the framework of the project gives an economic advantage (a benefit) which a **partner** would not have obtained under normal market conditions.

> NC must check that the state aid was declared in the AF and the thresholds are respected on the contrary the LP/JS must be informed





## **Indirect Aid granted under GBER**

## Art 20a of the GBER (Indirect State Aid)

State aid relevance: the implementation of the activity in the framework of the project gives an
economic advantage (a benefit) to third parties acting as undertaking (end users/operators) receiving
benefits from the project (such as trainings) it would not have obtained under normal market conditions.

#### > NC must check that the state aid was declared in the AF and the regulatory thresholds are respected

- e.g : free of charge services, training, or consultancy to companies > the aid is granted to third parties who are the end users of project activities
- indirect State aid granted under GBER Article 20a to an undertaking that is the final beneficiary of project activities
   cannot exceed 22 000 EUR per project
- The amount of aid granted to each end user is determined by the concerned partner(s) prior to the implementation of
  project activities that are affected by indirect aid and it shall be approved by the Managing Authority <u>prior to the Subsidy</u>
  <u>Contract signature</u>
- · The application shall be monitored by the partner and verified by the national controller during implementation



## Investment

#### **THEMATIC - TEST PROJECTS**

Within the framework of the Programme all infrastructure, technical and IT equipment development, materials and related services for the deployment of the **pilot action**, which are necessary for the delivery of project objective, **are considered as investment** 

- Investment dedicated section in the AF under the WPs.
- Investment is eligible only if it appears in the consolidated version of the AF
- Eligible costs categories related to investments: CC4, CC5, CC6
- Cost of fixed investment in equipment and investment in infrastructure are considered as Investment, they refer to the output of the project which remain in use after the completion of the project
- Durability and ownership requirements (Manual. chapter II.H Closing my project)

On the spot verification by the NC is mandatory!



## **FOCUS on external contracts**

#### **Outsourcing contracts**

must be in compliance with National public procurement rules or as a minimum, the Programme principles to guarantee the eligibility of the expenses incurred.

#### No threshold in 2021-2027 Programming Period

For each external contract, a corresponding external contract must be created by PP in Jems



For each new contract,
an *External contract checklist*must be completed by the NC

Contractor data

linked to the expenditure item

External expertise and services costs should not exceed 50% of the partner total eligible budget







## **Project modifications**

100% flexibility on budget implementation: no need to modify the AF

Flexibility applies within the limit of the total budget awarded to each PP and considering the available budget (i.e. budget not yet declared at the MA)

#### **Budget flexibility - warning points:**

- Consider the amounts automatically generated by the CC2 and CC3 flat rates in your deviations.
- Keep an eye on budget distribution per period: information needed for the financial monitoring of the project and in case of decommitment section D.3 of the AF will be considered.

On line form for modification request

Any other modification MUST be approved by the Programme and SHALL result on an <u>amended versions</u> of the AF + contractual documents if applicable

#### 3 types of modification:

- ✓ Complex modification:) > Formal approval by the Monitoring Committee of the programme
- ✓ Formal modification: > Approval by the JS and the concerned NA, if applicable
- ✓ **Administrative modification:** > information to the JS

Previous versions of the AF remain available on Jems





## **Irregularities**

An "irregularity" is an ineligible amount (certified by the controller, verified by the MA and) detected after

#### having been declared to the EC by the Accounting Authority





As a result of any *level of controls*Cases stated in art 12.1 of the *Subsidy Contract* 



**ONLY THE JS** CAN **ACT ON** AN EXPENDITURE ALREADY DECLARED TO THE EC

**Unduly paid amount** > notified to the Programme by email via a dedicated template and is corrected in Jems by the JS through a specific workflow

- In case of ongoing project, withdraw of the irregular amount from a pending payment (compensation)
- > in case of closed projects, via a formal Recovery procedure

As far as an irregularity is related to **staff cost category**, the corresponding **flat** rate(s) (CC2 and CC3) is/are automatically corrected by the system

Programme Manual Art. 8 Subsidy Contract Art. 7 Partnership Agreement





## **Decommitment risk**

#### Programme level (Article 105 of Regulation (EU) No 1060/2021):

• The Commission shall **decommit any amount** which has **not been used** for pre-financing [...] or for which a payment application has not been submitted [...] by 31 December of the third calendar year following the year of the budget commitments

#### **Project level (Article 2.9 of the Subsidy Contract):**

• If the project financial absorption is not on track with the defined schedule or a partner fails to respect the contractual arrangements corrective measures may be put in place.

JS may propose to the Monitoring Committee to reduce the amount granted!

Based on table D.3 section in the AF







# Eligibility of expenditures



CC2 - Office and administrative costs

CC3 - Travel and accommodation costs

CC4 - External expertise and services costs

CC5 - Equipment costs

CC6 - Infrastructure and works

CC7 – information and PUblicty rules





## **Eligibility of Expenditures**

## **Hierarchy of Rules**

National Controllers refer to the task of verifying and certifying that all project expenditure is eligible according to:

#### **EU rules**

- Regulation (EU) n° 2021/1060 (Common Provisions Regulation CPR)
- Regulation (EU) n° 2021/1058 (ERDF Regulation)
- Regulation (EU) n° 2021/1059 (Interreg Regulation)\*
- Regulation (EU) n° 2021/1529 (regulation IPA III)

#### **Interreg Euro-MED Programme's eligibility rules**

- The Programme rules constitute <u>additional rules</u> on the eligibility of expenditure for the Programme as a whole and are set out in the **Programme Manual.**
- Practical Guidance for National Controllers to carry out the control work on Jems

#### **National eligibility Rules**

National eligibility rules apply to issues that would not be covered by the above-mentioned EU or Programme eligibility rules and must be checked, prior to the execution of the expenditure, with the relevant National Authority.



#### Forms of reimbursement

No advance Payment III

- Real Costs: Reimbursement based on <u>paid expenditures, confirmed</u>
  <u>as eligible</u> by the NC
- > Simplified Cost Options
  - Lump sum for preparation costs Total amount 37.000 €
    This lump sum is fixed and compulsory for all projects and is paid once the Subsidy Contract will be signed
  - Flat rate for office and administration 15% of eligible staff costs, mandatory for all partners
  - Flat rate for travel and accommodation

The flat rate for the calculation of travel expenditure varies according to the country in which the project partner is based

- 15% Partner from EU Member State
- 22% Partner from IPA State

Payment of the Interreg part from the Accounting Authority

- made directly to <u>each PP bank account (one bank account per partner!)</u>
- 80 days after submission of the complete Reporting Package and Payment claim to the JS.



## **Eligibility period**

Jems Contracting section:

-project starting date -eligibility of expenditures starting date

- Preparation costs: Lump sum no real costs
- Implementation costs: starts from the date of the approval of the project by the Programme
- All project expenditure, whether related to the implementation of the project or to closure activities, must be incurred and paid by the end date of the project

Any expenditure paid after project end date is ineligible!



#### (CC1) STAFF COSTS

**Eligible costs:** limited to **the payment of gross salaries** fixed in an employment document and **other costs directly linked to salary payments** of the staff employed by the beneficiary for implementing the project

#### Reference:

Art. 39 Reg 1059/2021 Art. 55 (2) Reg 1060/202 Programme Manual





No separate working time registration system (e.g. timesheets).

#### **ONE METHOD: fixed monthly percentage**

for each staff member = monthly working time spent on the project expressed in percentage

- Fixed percentage to be determined in advance
- 'Staff Task Assignment Template' (STAT): MANDATORY template, to be completed and uploaded in Jems
- New STATs <u>only necessary in case of change</u> of the %
- The applied percentage should AT LEAST cover ONE full reporting period



#### (CC2) OFFICE AND ADMINISTRATION

**Eligible cost :** operating and administrative indirect expenses of the project partner that are necessary for the implementation of the project (Adobe licence ex)

#### Reference:

Art. 40 Reg. 1059/2021 Art. 54 (b) Reg 1060/2021 Programme Manual

- Mandatory for all project partners and fixed at 15% of staff cost
- Simplified Cost Option foreseen by Art. 54 b) CPR (EU) 1060/2021
- Costs are **automatically calculated by Jems** on the basis of eligible staff costs
- The controller does not need to check if expenditures are incurred and paid

The controller verifies that **no expenditure covered by this category is declared** as **REAL COST!** 

If among the direct staff costs all or part is deemed ineligible, the determined amount of administrative and office costs will automatically be recalculated and reduced accordingly!



## Eligibility of expenditures (CC3) TRAVEL AND ACCOMODATION

**Eligible costs** Expenses of the project partner institution staff for missions essential to the project implementation

The eligible expenditure under this cost category are (exhaustive list):

- Travel costs (e.g. tickets, travel and car insurance, car mileage, toll and parking fees)
- Costs of meals
- Accommodation costs
- Visa costs
- Per diem (daily allowances)
- Travel and accommodation costs for external experts must be claimed under the cc external expertise and services!

Any item of expenditure above listed already covered by a daily allowance should not be claimed or reimbursed in addition to the daily allowance

#### Point of attention

- ✓ Outside of the Programme cooperation area but in an EU State, <u>JS must be informed</u>
- ✓ Outside of the Programme cooperation area AND EU, <u>must</u> <u>be indicated in the approved</u> <u>Application Form and expressly accepted by the JS</u>





#### (CC3) TRAVEL AND ACCOMODATION



- No audit trail needed!
- Automatically calculated and reimbursed
- Huge reduction of the control effort and speed up of verifications at all levels
- Time better used by PPs and LP to focus on the project activities, and an accurate reporting
- If among the direct staff costs all or part is deemed ineligible, the determined amount of administrative and office costs will automatically be recalculated and reduced accordingly!

#### **Real costs**



- <u>Complete audit trail</u> needed, as for 2014-2020 period!
- National threshold to be respected
- Cost-effectiveness + link to the project
- Jems entering: 1 expenditure item: 1 person's expenditures/1 mission
- Travel outside the cooperation area and EU, express approval of the JS is needed and documented!

EC requirement: Each PP must document that at least 1 trip per Project has been held

Travel outside the cooperation area and EU, express approval of the JS is needed!





#### (CC4) EXTERNAL EXPERTISE AND SERVICE COSTS

Reference: Art 42 Reg 1059/2021 Programme Manual

**Eligible costs:** Expertise and Services provided by a public or private entity, or by a natural person not declared as staff of the partner organization

- Cost related to the National Control
- Travel and accommodation (costs for external experts, speakers, chairpersons of meetings and service providers)
- The costs of external expertise and services shall be paid on the basis of contracts or written agreements of equivalent value and must be uploaded in Jems > external contract
- Costs related to installation, maintenance of your pilot should be linked to the investment and the statement of capacity template must be signed by partners

#### Full compliance with:

- EU, Programme and national procurement rules
- The principles of transparency, non-discrimination and equal treatment

#### Point of attention!

for expertise and external services of activities **outside the cooperation area** and **outside EU** 

> the express approval from JS is needed!



#### (CC5) EQUIPMENT

**Eligible costs:** Equipment **purchased, rented or leased** by the beneficiary that is not already covered by the cost category "office and administrative costs" and **necessary for the delivery of project activities.** 

Reference: Art 43 Reg 1059/2021 Programme Manual

- PPs should foresee the costs on a pro-rata basis or according to a depreciation plan
- Any equipment to be used for project management must be reasonably purchased at the beginning of the project
- Costs should be in line with the staff effort planned and project activities
- > Include **fixed investment in equipment or equipment as part of an infrastructure investment**, in this case:
- exclusively used for the project,
- eligible <u>up to the 100%</u> of the acquisition price
- indicated in the AF section Investment and budget

#### Point of attention!

Equipment located and operated outside the Programme Cooperation Area and the EU

> the express approval of the JS is needed



#### (CC6) INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORK

**Eligible costs** in this category are the costs of infrastructure and work necessary for the delivery of project objective in the framework of a pilot activity.

Reference:
Art 44 Reg 1059/2021
Programme Manual

- Cost of infrastructure and work only eligible as a part of an investment and <u>approved in</u> the <u>latest version of the AF</u>
- Costs of equipment as part of an infrastructure investment are eligible under CC5
- Costs of services and external experts are eligible under CC4 if it is not part of the construction contract
- The cost can be 100 % eligible if the exclusive use for the project is proven

Point of attention!
Infrastructure located
and operated outside
the cooperation area
are NOT ELEGIBLE!



Fundamental principle: inform the public & all those involved in the operation about the support from the EU

CPR Regulation 2021/1060, article 47 ad 50 Interreg Regulation 2021/1059, article 36

#### **Materials**

The Programme provides for each project:

- 1 logo
- 1 poster template

Each project can develop its own <u>visual identity</u> complying with the **Programme** brand book (e.g. word and ppt template, event agenda, social media post...).

- No PPT or letterhead template
- No Newsletter tool



#### **Promotional items (goodies)**

- MUST be expressly accepted by the JS and branded with the project logo.
- Necessary to reach one of the defined target groups and objectives.
- Eco-friendly



Please **read** very carefully the **brand book** explaining how partners should use the project logo.

For any doubts, ask the JS





#### Where to use the project logo?

#### On all communication materials!

- printed publications: reports, brochures, newsletters, studies, articles, etc.;
- audio-visual: videos, audio podcasts;
- digital or electronic materials (websites, videos, podcast, etc.);
- events (e.g. PPT presentations, agenda, conference material);
- stationary and office materials;
- promotional goodies.

When not possible (e.g.: scientific & press articles) explicitly mention the contribution from the Programme & the EU co-financing.



How to use the project logo?

The logo must be **clearly visible** (must stand out well on the background).

**No distortion or modification** of the logo provided by the Programme is allowed.







#### What to be checked by NC?

- Mandatory use of the project logo provided by the programme
- > Sanction up to 2% for non-compliance with obligations
- Poster for <u>all co-financed project partners</u>
- No cost claimed for website or logo production
- No promotional item not expressly validated by the JS
- On the beneficiary's official website:
  - A short description of the project including its aims and results
  - Project budget
  - Project logo
  - Link to project website



### Sum-up!

#### **Express Approval from the JS**

Concerned categories/ activities	Express approval needed for :
Travel and accommodation (CC3)	Any activity taking place outside the Programme cooperation area <u>and</u> outside the EU
External expertise and service (CC4)	Any non-monetary <b>awards for competition winners</b> Any <b>expertise and service</b> concerning activities located outside the Programme cooperation area and outside the EU
Equipment (CC5)	Any equipment located and operating outside the Programme cooperation area
Investment	Any investment [] must be included in the consolidated application form
Specific logos/Goodies /promotional items	Goodies and Promotional items or specific logos aiming to become a label or brand can be developed in very specific and exceptional cases  The pro-



The **proof of JS express approval**MUST be kept by the LP and PPs
as part of the project audit trail
(BASECAMP)

(Template under development)







# Thank you!