

COOPERATION PROGRAMME

INTERREG V-A GREECE-ITALY PROGRAMME 2014-2020

PART B

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1. LEGISLATION

1. Regulation (EU) 1303/2013, Common Provisions,
2. Regulation (EU) 1299/2013, Specific Provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European Territorial Co-operation goal,
3. Regulation (EU) 447/2014, Pre-accession assistance (IPA II)
4. Regulation (EU) 481/2014, eligibility of expenditure for Cooperation Programmes,
5. European Commission Guidance for Member States on Management Verifications (EGESIF 14_12 final 2015).

2. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE (1/22)

GENERAL RULES ON THE ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE

Expenditure are eligible since they shall meet the following general criteria:

They comply with the principle of sound financial management, i.e. principles of **economy, efficiency** and **effectiveness**.

The **principle of economy** requires that the resources used by the beneficiary for the implementation of an action of the approved project shall be made available in due of time in appropriate quantity and quality and at the best price.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE(2/22)

The expenditure is eligible since,

- They correspond to actions, services or products described in the Application Form and are foreseen in the approved budget of the project under a specific budget line.
- They are executed by the beneficiary and they are paid in the approved period of the project.
- They comply to the financial and the labour legislation of the country.
- They are paid by invoices or any other documentation of equal value.
- They reflect the present account system of the beneficiary.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE (3/22)

EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES

1. Staff costs;
2. Travel and accommodation costs;
3. Office and administrative expenditure;
4. Equipment expenditure;
5. External expertise and services costs; and
6. Infrastructure.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE (4/22)

1. Staff costs (1/3)

Expenditure on staff costs shall consist of gross employment costs of staff employed by the beneficiary in one of the following ways.

- i. full time;
- ii. part-time with a flexible number of hours worked per month;
- iii. part-time with a fixed percentage of time worked per month; or
- iv. on an hourly basis.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE (5/22)

1. Staff costs (2/3)

Expenditure on staff costs shall be limited to the following,

- i. relating to responsibilities specified in the job description of the staff member concerned;
- ii. in accordance with the legislation referred to in the employment document and with standard practices in the country and/or organisation where the individual staff member is actually working;
- iii. The salary payments related to the activities which the entity would otherwise not carry out if the operation concerned was not undertaken, fixed in an employment / work contract
- iv. Signed payment rolls.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE (6/22)

1. Staff costs (3/3)

- v. Salary payments and other costs linked to salary payments (employment taxes, social security) not recoverable by the employer.
- vi. All costs fixed in the employment document/law.
- vii. Salaries related to responsibilities specified in the job description.

Option I: Real costs (payslips and proof of payment required).

Option II: Simplified cost options, e.g. Standard scale of unit costs, Flat rate of up to 20% of direct costs other than the staff costs (Art. 19, ETC Reg. 1299/2013).

2. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE (7/22)

2. Travel and accommodation costs (1/3)

The travel and accommodation costs are eligible only for the staff of beneficiary organisations that relate to delivery of the project.

Travel and accommodation of experts, external to the project partnership under **External expertise and services**.

Maximum daily rates for hotel and subsistence should be respected, in line with national legislation or internal policy of the partner organisation.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE (8/22)

2. Travel and accommodation costs (2/3)

Expenditure on travel and accommodation costs is limited to the following items:

- (a) Travelling costs;
- (b) accommodation;
- (c) visa;
- (d) daily allowances.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE (9/22)

2. Travel and accommodation costs (3/3)

Supporting documents for the verification of expenditure

The following documents must be available for control purposes:

- i. Agenda (or equivalent) of the meeting/seminar/conference;
- ii. Documents proving that the journey actually took place (boarding passes or participant lists etc.);
- iii. Paid invoices (including hotel bills, transport tickets, etc.) and, if applicable, the employee's expense report with a proof of reimbursement by the employer to the employee;
- iv. Daily allowance claims (if applicable), including proof of reimbursement by the employer to the employee.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE (10/22)

3. Office and administrative expenditure (1/2)

Eligible cost

- Operating and administrative expenses of the beneficiary organisation that support delivery of the project activities.

Reimbursement options:

- **Option I:** Real costs
- **Option II:** Flat rate

2. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE (11/22)

3. Office and administrative expenditure (2/2)

Indirect costs may be calculated at a flat rate of:

- I. Up to **15% of eligible direct staff costs** – no calculation method required from the programme:
 - applicable at the beneficiary level,
 - beneficiaries do not need to provide any supporting documents.

Staff costs calculated at a flat rate can still form the basis for calculation of indirect costs at a flat rate of (up to) 15% of staff costs.

- II. Up to **25% of eligible direct costs** – established based on fair, equitable and verifiable calculation method.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE (12/22)

4. Equipment and Depreciation (1/3)

Expenditure for the financing of equipment either purchased, or rented or leased by a partner, necessary to achieve the objectives of the project.

According to the Regulation (EU) No 481/2014 Article 7, equipment expenditure is limited to the following items:

- office equipment;
- IT hardware and software;
- furniture and fittings;
- laboratory equipment;
- machines and instruments;
- tools or devices;
- vehicles;
- other specific equipment needed for operations.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE (13/22)

4. Equipment and Depreciation (2/3)

Costs of equipment are eligible if they are detailed in the latest approved version of the Application Form. Equipment has to be purchased in compliance with public procurement rules. Equipment can only be funded by the programme if no other EU funds have contributed to the financing.

Supporting documents for the verification of expenditure.

The following documents must be available for control purposes:

- Evidence of compliance with the applicable EU, national and internal procurement rules,
- Invoice (or a supporting document with equivalent probative value to invoices, in case of depreciation) providing all relevant information in line with the applicable accountancy rules,
- Calculation of depreciation in compliance with the applicable national schemes,
- Proof of payment.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE (14/22)

4. Equipment and Depreciation (3/3)

Depreciation may be considered, under the following cases,

- (a) Purchase cost of equipment is not requested (the equipment must have been purchased before the initiation of the project)
- (b) There is a justified methodology for partial distribution of the time allocated to the specific project.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE (15/22)

5. External expertise and services (1/3)

External expertise and service costs include expenditure paid on the basis of contracts or written agreements, against invoices or requests for reimbursement to external service providers who are subcontracted to carry out certain tasks/ activities linked to delivery of the project (e.g. studies and surveys, translation, newsletter development, coordination, financial management, first level control).

2. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE (16/22)

5. External expertise and services (2/3)

Pursuant to the Regulation (EU) No 481/2014 Article 6, expenditure on external expertise and service are limited to the following services and expertise provided by an organisation other than the project partner, indicatively:

- studies or surveys (e.g. evaluations, strategies, concept notes, design plans, handbooks); translations;
- training;
- IT systems and website development, modifications and updates;
- promotion, communication, publicity or information linked to a project or to a cooperation programme as such;
- financial management;
- participation in events (e.g. registration fees);
- verifications (i.e. first level control costs); certification and audit costs at programme level;
- travel and accommodation for external experts, speakers, chairpersons of meetings and service providers
- other specific expertise and services needed for operations.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE (18/22)

5. External expertise and services (3/3)

Supporting documents for the verification of expenditure

The following documents must be available for control purposes:

- ❖ Evidence of the selection process, in compliance with the applicable EU, national and internal public procurement rules. Any changes to the contract must comply with the public procurement rules and must be documented,
- ❖ A contract or other written agreements of equivalent probative value laying down the services to be provided with a clear link to the project,
- ❖ An invoice or a request for reimbursement providing all relevant information in line with the applicable accountancy rules,
- ❖ Proof of payment,
- ❖ Outputs of the work of external experts or service deliverable.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE (19/22)

6. Infrastructure

Covers costs related to investments in infrastructure that do not fall into the scope of other budget lines. The necessary studies, allowances must be met.

- This includes costs for example; site preparation, delivery, handling, installation, renovation, and purchase of land, when applicable.

The following documents must be available for control purposes:

1. Contracts and other related documentation (tender procedures, Selection committee decisions etc.).
2. Invoices and / or other documentation ensuring the works in progress.
3. Proof of payment.
4. The necessary environmental studies and licenses.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE (20/22)

V.A.T.

In accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 Article 69 (3), VAT is not eligible except in the case where VAT is non-recoverable under national VAT legislation. In practice, if a partner can recover VAT (regardless whether he actually does or not), all expenditure reported to the programme has to be reported without VAT.

However, there are certain cases whereby specific activities can be excluded from VAT recovery.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE (21/22)

Net revenues

In accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 Articles 61 and 65, if a project generates net revenue for example through services, conference participation fees, sales of brochures or books, it must be deducted from eligible costs in full or pro-rata depending on whether it was generated entirely or only partly by the co-financed project. The ERDF funding is calculated on the basis of the total cost after deduction of any net revenue.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE (22/22)

Double financing

The aim of the First Level Control is to verify that the specific expenditure is not financed by any other source, national or co-financed. In order to ensure the non double financing, the FLC should:

- Check that all original documents are signed by the beneficiary. The official name of the Programme and the project's acronym, must be indicated on all documents.
- Check that the beneficiary keeps the payment documents in a *separate accounting system* or an adequate accounting code.
- Check that the acronym of the project and the name of the Programme are referred to the contracts.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION ANY QUESTIONS?



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