

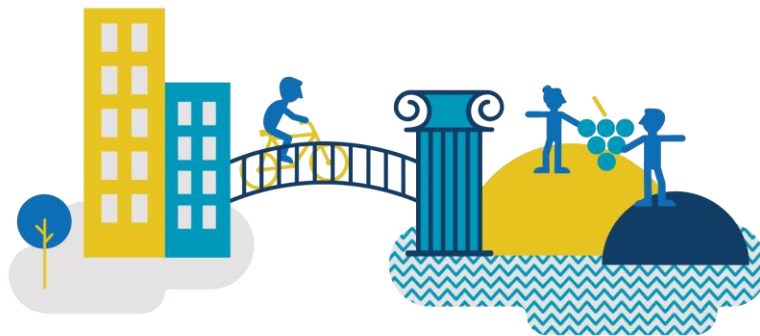
# IPA Finance Lab: Practical Exchange for Programme Practitioners

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3-4 December 2024

Tirana | Albania (TBC)





## **IPA Finance Lab: Practical Exchange for Programme Practitioners**

**3-4 December 2024**

Tirana | Albania

### **Outline**

Interact is excited to announce the event IPA Finance Lab: Practical Exchange for Programme Practitioners, which will take place in Tirana from 3 to 4 December 2024.

This event aims to create a dedicated platform for practitioners involved in the financial management of Interreg IPA programmes, namely financial officers from Managing Authorities and Joint Secretariats, representatives of national authorities, as well as controllers and audit authorities involved in Interreg IPA programmes.

The event will feature interactive sessions led by experts from Interact and experienced practitioners from various Interreg IPA programmes. Participants will be able to discuss recent developments in financial management, share experiences, and engage in problem-solving activities. The focus will be on practical aspects of financial management, including SCOs, eligibility of expenditure, reporting, public procurement, and risk-based management verification. Additionally, the event will provide a valuable opportunity to clarify the roles and responsibilities of various actors involved in the financial management of Interreg IPA programmes, ensuring a clear understanding and better coordination.

The IPA Finance Lab also offers a unique opportunity to connect with colleagues from other Interreg IPA programmes. This collaborative environment aims to foster a deeper understanding of financial management practices and ensure comprehensive support for the successful implementation of IPA programmes.

As this is the first event of its kind, we hope to establish it as an annual gathering to continuously support and enhance the financial management capabilities of Interreg IPA programme practitioners.

### **Objectives**

The event aims to facilitate the exchange of best practices and practical experiences in financial management. It will address financial managers' everyday challenges, offering a collaborative space for exploring solutions. Additionally, the event seeks to enhance participants' skills through interactive sessions and workshops. This is a hands-on event, empowering participants to manage their responsibilities effectively.



## IPA Finance Lab: Practical Exchange for Programme Practitioners

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### Day One

**Tuesday, 3 December 2024**

**09.00 – 09.30**

Registration

**09.30 – 10.00**

**Introduction and welcome**

**10.00 – 11.00**

**Roles and responsibilities in Interreg IPA Programmes**

*Interact and Interreg IPA programmes*

This session aims to discuss the roles and responsibilities of Interreg Programme bodies and how the different bodies can best cooperate to ensure the programme's sound financial management.

**11.00 – 11.30**

Coffee/Tea break

**11.30 – 13.00**

**Risk Based Management Verification in Interreg**

*Interact and Interreg IPA programmes*

This session tackles the new approach to Risk Based Management Verification (RBMV) in Interreg and will showcase examples of how it is implemented in Interreg IPA Programmes. Participants will gain a deeper insight into the rationale behind RBMV and a better understanding of how to integrate it into their routines.

**13.00 – 14.00**

Lunch break

**14.00 – 15.30**

**SCOs – Simplification of financial management!?**

*Interact and Interreg IPA programmes*

This session aims to discuss what opportunities Simplified Cost Options bring for financial management practices in Interreg IPA Programmes, especially focusing on programme financial rules, project budgets, reporting obligations and management verification.

**15:30 – 16:00**

Coffee/Tea break

**16.00 – 17.00**

**Eligibility of expenditure**

*Interact and Interreg IPA programmes*

This session aims to discuss latest updates on current eligibility challenges in Interreg with specific focus on issues relevant for Interreg IPA Programmes. Additionally, participants have the possibility to discuss eligibility issues/cases.



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### **Day Two**

**Wednesday, 4 December 2024**

**09.00 – 09.30**

#### **Reconnection**

*Interact programme*

**9.30 – 11.00**

#### **Challenges in Public Procurement**

*Interact and Interreg IPA programmes*

Discussion of current challenges and issues Programmes are facing

**11.00 – 11.30**

Coffee/Tea break

**11.30 – 12.30**

#### **Topics suggested from the registration**

**12.30 – 13.00**

*Closure of event, Next steps*