

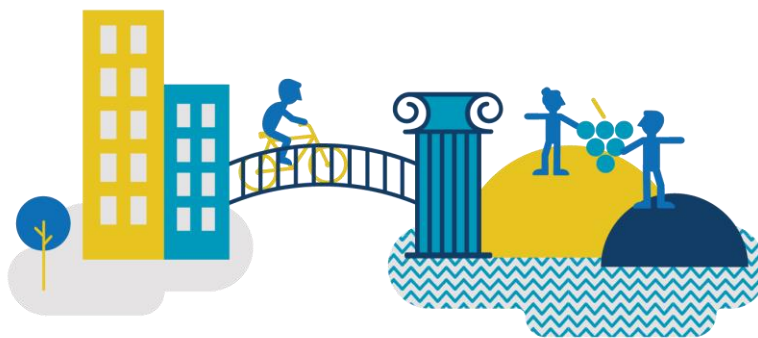
# IPA Finance Lab: Practical Exchange for Programme Practitioners

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3-4 December 2024

Tirana | Albania





## **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.



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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**

This session aims to discuss the roles and responsibilities of Interreg Programme bodies and how to ensure sound financial management.

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee/Tea break

11.30 – 13.00

**Risk Based Management Verification and Audit in Interreg**

This session tackles the new approach to Risk Based Management Verification (RBMV) in Interreg and its implications on Control and Audit.

*Presentations:*

- Zvonko Širić, Audit Authority Croatia: The AA perspective on RBMV in 2021-2027 programming period

13.00 – 14.00

Lunch break

14.00 – 15.30

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

This session aims to discuss what opportunities Simplified Cost Options bring for financial management practices in Interreg IPA Programmes.

*Presentations:*

- Antonio Agrosi, Joint Secretariat, Interreg IPA South Adriatic Programme's SCOs
- Kristijan Futac, Joint Secretariat, Interreg IPA CBC Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro Small project fund

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee/Tea break

16.00 – 17.00

**Eligibility of expenditure**

This session aims to discuss latest updates on eligibility rules and current challenges in Interreg with specific focus on issues relevant for Interreg IPA Programmes.

*End of day 1.*



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**Day Two**

**Wednesday, 4 December 2024**

**9.15 – 09.30**

Reconnection

**9.30 – 10.30**

### **Challenges in Public Procurement**

This session tackles current challenges and issues Programmes are facing with regards to public procurement. Participants will share practices from their Programmes.

*Presentations:*

- Oana Cristea, Managing Authority Interreg IPA CBC Romania – Serbia Public procurement rules
- János Halász, Joint Secretariat, Interreg IPA CBC Hungary – Serbia Public procurement rules

**10:30 – 10.45**

Coffee/Tea break

**10.45 – 11.45**

### **Challenges in Public Procurement (continued) & any open questions and answers**

Discussion of current challenges and issues

**11.45 – 12.00**

### **Closure of event & next steps**

*End of the meeting.*