

INTERACT SEMINAR

How to speed up the 2014-2020 programmes' spending rates

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Three main mitigation measures to avoid de-committment adopted by the Programme

- 1. Flexible approach at closure (extension of 1st call projects)**
- 2. Small capitalization project (Restricted Call targeted only on 1st Call for Standard Project)**
- 3. Coherent expenditures to be included in Thematic Projects in overbudgeting**

Measures validated and approved by the Monitoring Committee



Flexibility at project closure

- **First call projects due to close in 2018-2019, but...**
- **Several extensions of project duration were approved (also because of COVID 19) until end of 2020**
- **Maximum flexibility of budget shifts among partners at closures**
- **Targeted call projects at the top of ranking list were approved with available savings at closure**





Small-scale capitalization project

- **Restricted procedure (only partnership of standard projects, no new partners)**
- **Pre-defined activities: capitalization (testing - validation)**
- **Simplified evaluation procedure (concept notes + simplified AF)**
- **Partners already checked (no administrative/legal assessment)**
- **Simplified budget/activities: only Lump Sums (workshops and B2B events), already tested in the targeted call SSPs.**
- **Short timer of implementation: 6/9 months.**



Coherent expenditures in over-budget

- **Coherence with projects' objectives, outputs, activities**
- **Expenditures eligible (according to applicable rules)**
- **Expenditures already completed (or mature, i.e. already procured – contracted, but do not constitute a separate concluded operation), by the beneficiaries of Projects (compliance with EU, national and Programme rules)**
- **Expenditures financed by national funds (no double funding) i.e. own budgets, or e.g. Italian national FSC (Solidarity and Cohesions Fund)**





Overbudgeting

- Only for Thematic Projects (i.e. our strategic top-down projects, exceptionally even open Targeted Standard Projects), the beneficiaries can separately report on incurred expenditures exceeding the approved budget, which will be reimbursed only if unspent budget at priority level is available at programme closure in 2024.
- I.e. Reported to the EC, as these are eligible expenditures (and activities clearly contribute to the approved project), but not immediately reimbursed to beneficiaries.
- The over-budget is under explicit and accepted condition (in the Subsidy Contract – specific term) that funds are available at the closure of Programme, risk (even if minor) is borne by the beneficiary.





Overbudgeting: Subsidy Contract clause

4. In order to mitigate the risk of automatic de-commitment, the Lead Partner and the respective Project Partners have the power to claim expenditures, financed through **other sources** and **exceeding assigned total partner budget**, under the condition that these are **coherent with the project objectives**, and that they **may contribute to reaching the project results**, as well as that they are **eligible and validated by the national controllers**, in compliance with Programme rules. According to Articles 5 and 6, these expenditures shall be reported, separately, in dedicated joint progress reports in compliance to the procedures set in Programme Manual.

5. The Managing Authority shall include these additional expenditures in the payment applications to the EU Commission, but it may not reimburse these to the Lead Partner and to the project partners **until the operation is closed and the respective unspent amounts are de-committed and only under the condition that sufficient Programme resources are available.**

6. The Lead Partner releases the Managing Authority from any liability in case the amounts claimed under par.4 of Article 2bis may not be reimbursed because they are absorbed by partners of this and other projects, as originally allocated.



THANK YOU!

more info in the Programme Website

www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu