

Interreg



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Italy – Croatia

*CATCHING THE WAVES
OF COOPERATION*

FAQ

2nd Call for Proposals

For Operations of Strategic Importance

Latest update: 31.10.2024

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Questions & Answers

1. Are the steps and the chronological order described in Annex 2 to set up voucher schemes compulsory or may they be adapted? May we first organise SMEs support events, where needs are also assessed, then launch the public procurement and at the end the SMEs call?

The steps may be adapted to the concrete situations and the assessment of the real needs of the SMEs is essential for procuring a suitable set of services.

2. Is the lead partner principle applicable also to SMEs projects in the GRANT scheme described in Annex 2?

As described in Annex 2, the OSI project partners awarding the grants are responsible towards the Programme for the SMEs expenditures, therefore they need to verify them and pay them to SMEs, before reporting them to the National Controller and to the Programme. No Lead Partner principle is applicable to the SMEs partnerships: consequently, the concerned project partner provides the grants directly to each SME and the responsibility lies at the level of each single SME. The Programme, anyhow, encourages the maximum simplification for the SMEs projects management and financial flows.

3. Is the 22.000 € maximum amount per Voucher described in Annex 2, for each SME in the partnership or for the entire partnership?

Single vouchers up to 22.000,00 € value are provided to each SME in the partnerships, not jointly.



Questions & Answers

4. In order to comply with the 25% threshold rule for management cost set in Annex 2 for OSI 1.1 and 1.2, can we use internal staff to both a) manage the project and the scheme within 25% and also b) to provide support to SMEs (aimed at building up partnerships e.g.) within 75%? How can we do it with the 20% flat rate for staff costs?

Yes, you may use your internal staff to cover staff costs under management (25% of total costs) as well as to provide SMEs support (within the 75% of total costs dedicated to SMEs), if a competent team is available within your organisation. However, in this case we advise partners to use the real cost option for staff instead of the 20% flat rate, as to clearly allocate and distinguish staff costs related to a) management and b) SMEs support activities and thus to have an evidence that the project complies with the 25% threshold rule.

5. Is there a template for the drafting of the specific attachments required for Priority 1 (needs analysis, estimation of costs, activities definition)?

No, there is no template provided by the Programme for these annexes to be uploaded in Jems.

6. Is there a template for the attachments regarding location of the partners and eligibility of the LP according to the typology of organisations? If one document contains all needed information can it be sufficient?

No, the Programme does not provide templates and may request clarifications in case information provided would not be sufficient.



Questions & Answers

7. Is there a template for the assessment of expected impacts of climate change for investments in infrastructure with an expected lifespan of at least five years?

No, the Programme does not provide a template for this attachment. This requirement is foreseen in line with regulation 1059/2021 art 22 (4. j) and the Programme will request to produce such an assessment, if not attached to the AF, only for investments in infrastructure with a total cost of at least 1 million EUR.

8. Do we need to submit the Voucher Scheme program for prior approval to our relevant institutions national/regional level both in Croatia and Italy? Is this something we need to do when we start with the project implementation?

The Managing Authority is the Body responsible for granting State aids under the Interreg Italy-Croatia Programme. Therefore the Managing Authority will be in charge of the submission of the GBER aid scheme and related reporting and registration formalities, for indirect aid granted both to Italian and Croatian SMEs. According to Annex 2 of the Call "Guidance on Aid Schemes for Priority 1", Project Partners must wait for the prior registration of the aids by the MA: "The partner shall wait for the Managing Authority's release, before confirming the vouchers to the SMEs, who were selected."



Questions & Answers

9. The Programme Intervention Logic, Annex 1 and Annex 2 list programme indicators to be achieved within this Call, relating to SO 1.2. We have noticed that some of the indicators do not appear in all three relevant documents. Can you please confirm that indicators RCO01 and RCO07 should also be achieved within this call for SO 1.2 (Voucher Scheme)?

Please consider that a clerical error occurred in the text of the Annex 1 to the Call announcement of the 2nd Call for Proposals, Page 17, point d "Contribution to output and result indicators", in the table related to the indicators expected target values. The same clerical error is also found in the Annex 2 to the Call Announcement. In particular, **RCO07 is not to be considered under the expected contributions of SO 1.2.** Moreover, **the expected target value for RCO87 is 9, instead of 18** as erroneously indicated in the text.

Finally, regarding RCO01, this is an indicator that counts the sum of RCO02 and/ or RCO04, so it is automatically implemented when contributing to the other indicators.

10. What does "Expected target values per OSI" (see Annex1 to the Call Announcement) mean with respect to indicators?

The expected target values of the indicators per each OSI project represent the expectations of the Programme towards the achievements of funded projects and thus are not elements of eligibility of the proposals. They will, instead, be considered in the quality assessment phase.





Questions & Answers

11. As far as the voucher scheme is concerned, referring to the Annex 2 to the Call announcement “Guidance on Aid Schemes for Priority 1. Will the vouchers, that will be used for the payment of the service providers for the selected SMEs, be registered in the National Register of State Aid by the Managing Authority of the INTERREG Italy - Croatia Programme? Will the registration be done on the basis of the data that the companies provided project partners on the proper template? Following registration and verification by the Managing Authority, the allocation of vouchers to companies can then be confirmed.

Yes, indeed. Upon verification of the documentation and data sent by LP, the MA/JS will be in charge of the registration of the aid (corresponding to the value of voucher) for each SME in RNA platform . Only once the MA shall communicate the registration of the (indirect) aid COR the LP could confirm to the SMEs (both Italian and Croatian ones) the vouchers.



Italy – Croatia

Questions & Answers

12. In Priority 1, is it possible for a public project partner of Croatian nationality to transfer money to an Italian beneficiary SME (winner of the call), even if the above mentioned SME had signed the agreement with an Italian project partner?

The grant shall be provided necessarily by a public or BGBPL body. It shall be regulated by a contract between the project partner, who provides the grant, and the SMEs who receives it. It is up to the project partners to organise the call for SMEs projects, the selection, the contracting, the verification of the SMEs expenditures and the payment in the most suitable way, sharing responsibilities and tasks.

It shall be noted that the partner, who provides the grant, is responsible for the regularity of SMEs expenditures towards the programme and therefore it shall verify these expenditures. Consequently, the National Controller is verifying the Partner's expenditures related to the grants according to EU, Programme and National law. For this reason, we advise project partners to take up responsibility for grants to SMEs of their own country, but it is not excluded that the LP provides grants to both Italian and Croatian SMEs, on the basis of a contract between the LP and these SMEs, provided that the LP may assure the verification of expenditures of the SMEs of both countries and may assume responsibility for it (see art. 52 of Interreg Reg. EU 2021/1059), as well as if the LP's National Controller is in the position to validate these LP expenditures.



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