

Romania - Hungary

INSTRUCTION No. 4 TO PROJECT PARTNERS AND PROGRAMME STRUCTURES Regarding the verification of expenditures on cost categories

- Acknowledging the MA competencies and responsibilities regarding the management of the Programme,
- Given the Programme's ongoing efforts to offer greater flexibility to project partners and to support a more effective and timely implementation of activities;
- Recognising the importance of meeting the 2025 decommitment target and the associated risks of financial corrections arising from non-compliance;
- Taking into account the provisions set out in the subsidy contracts, partnership agreements, and—where applicable for Romanian beneficiaries—the national co-financing contracts currently in force;
- And to streamline and improve the verification and reimbursement processes at all levels;

the Managing Authority of Interreg VI-A Romania-Hungary Programme issues the following

INSTRUCTION

Applicable to the verification of expenditures based on the maximum amount allocated by cost category, as opposed to the budget sub-line limit.

Article 1 - By derogation from the provisions set out in the Programme Implementation Manual (PIM), sub-chapter 3.3.1 *Verification of expenditures, National Control Body verifications* section, which states:

“During the verification process, the total amount of the budget line shall prevail and not the estimated amounts for each reporting period. In case of RO partners, the controllers will verify the total value of the sub-budget line, respectively the unit cost resulting from the AF budget: Price per Unit and the details mentioned in the Comments section. In case of HU partners, the controllers will verify the total value of the sub-budget line, including the number of units resulting from the AF. The actual market price is also checked.”,

the Programme structures (Managing Authority, Joint Secretariat, National Control bodies) will allow partners to report expenditures—and the NCBs to certify and JS endorse such expenditures—based on the maximum value approved for each budget line (cost category) in the Application Form, **without requiring any corresponding modification of the Application Form¹**, provided that all activities foreseen and budgeted under that cost category, including its sub-budget lines, are fully implemented², regardless of the financing allocation among them.

Article 2 - Beneficiaries are allowed to adjust the **unit cost of individual items inside a cost category** *without* submitting a notification to the Programme, provided that all the following conditions are met:

- The number of units per sub-budget line and/or cost category remains unchanged;
- The item description remains unchanged;
- The budgeted activities/sub-activities remain mandatory;

¹ Except for expenditures financed as de minimis/state aid, in which case an addendum to the Subsidy Contract is mandatory beforehand if the aid amount increases.

² Aspect to be further verified at JS/MA level.

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- The total allocation of the concerned cost category (as approved in the Application Form) is not exceeded.

Such internal variations do not require prior approval and will not affect the certification process, as long as the above conditions are respected.

Article 3 - For activities or deliverables defined as sets or packages in the Application Form, National Control Bodies may certify expenditures that include additional elements not originally listed in the composition of the set/package, provided that the maximum approved budget of the relevant cost category is not exceeded and the additional items are directly related, complementary, and functionally justified for the proper operation of the set/package.

These additional elements are considered eligible only if they:

- do not alter the qualitative or quantitative characteristics of the approved activity or deliverable;
- support the effective and proper implementation of the activity;
- do not change the essential nature, core scope, function, objective or result of the activity/deliverable as originally approved;
- comply with the approved eligibility of costs/expenditure criteria.

Article 4 - The adjusted cost of each budgeted item must be justified by the outcome of the procurement procedure carried out in accordance with:

- the national legislation and national rules (if relevant) applicable to the partner; and
- the Programme rules, including those applicable to private entities where relevant.

Article 5 - Entry into force

This instruction shall enter into force on the date of its publication on the Programme website and/or its communication to Partners and Programme Structures, and shall remain applicable until the revised version of the Project Implementation Manual is published.

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for the Interreg VI-A Romania-Hungary Programme