

# Annual accounts - piece of cake or a deal breaker?



Agenda, 21 March 2018  
The Grand Hotel Cavour  
Florence, Italy





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### Outlines and objectives

Turn of the year is usually a busy time for everyone, but especially for Interreg programmes and not only because of Christmas preparations but because of the annual accounts. By 15 February 2018 the annual accounts for the period 01.07.2016 - 30.06.2017 should be prepared and submitted to the European Commission. It is not the first submission in general but for the majority of Interreg programmes previous accounts covered zero eligible expenditure.

The preparation and submission of annual accounts require close cooperation of key programme authorities (mainly Managing, Certifying and Audit Authority) over a very tight period. During autumn, the full control cycle has to be completed through management verifications, by the MAs as well as the auditors.

By the time the meeting takes place, the programmes will have already submitted their accounts and the meeting aims at exchanging experiences and learning for the next year. This is why we would like to bring together MAs, CAs and AAs of Interreg programmes to discuss jointly their feedback, exchange good and bad experiences and commonly find ways to improve the process for the future.

The main objectives of the event are for programmes authorities to: learn from others on best practices implemented, to familiarise themselves with ways challenges could be overcome and to identify ways the process of submission of annual accounts for the programme can be improved.

Please note that the event is targeted at MAs, CAs and AAs representatives who are directly responsible for preparation and submission of annual accounts in Interreg programmes.

In order to ensure best environment for effective exchange we have to limit overall number of participants. As we would like to invite representatives from different Member States and programmes, we aim at accepting maximum 2-3 representatives per programme/Member State. Especially in case of same authority (CA or AA) covering multiple programmes.

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### Timetable

- 08.30 – 09.00 **Morning coffee and registration**
- 09.00 – 09.15 Welcome and introduction  
Interact
- 09.15 – 09.45 Overview of the current stage of programmes implementation  
Interact  
*At the end of this session participants will be informed about:*
- *state of financial implementation of Interreg programmes*
  - *main challenges recognised by the EC during the submission of annual accounts.*
- 09.45 – 10.45 Experience sharing – Managing and Certifying Authorities perspective  
Presentations by programmes:
- Slovenia – Austria, Dimitrij Pur
  - Baltic Sea Region, Corinna Guenther, Thomas Weber
  - Central Baltic – Annika Poldma.
- 10.45 – 11.15 Coffee break
- 11.15 – 12.15 Experience sharing – Certifying and Audit Authorities perspective  
Presentations by programmes and authorities:
- Belgian CA – Marie-Paule Boone
  - Latvia – Lithuania – Liga Lace, Vita Kepule
  - Polish AA – Rafal Manikowski
- At the end of this session participants will be able to:*
- *to construct baseline data on problems to be addressed.*
- 12.15 – 13.00 Discussion  
*At the end of this session participants will be able to:*
- *to reflect on challenges met by other programmes.*
- 13.00 – 14.00 Lunch break
- 14.00 – 14.15 Challenges, problems, bottlenecks – what needs improvements  
Short summary of challenges identified so far
- 14.15 – 15.15 Finding solutions and recognising good practices  
Group work



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- 15.15 – 16.15 Finding solutions and recognising good practices  
Reporting to the plenary  
*At the end of this session participants will be able to:*
- *list common challenges and obstacles regarding annual accounts preparation and submission*
  - *identify similarities and differences between programmes*
  - *list some good practices already implemented by programmes regarding annual accounts preparation and submission*
  - *recognise solutions to be implemented by own programmes*
- 16.15 – 16.45 Coffee break
- 16.45 – 16.55 Next steps – reflections and agreements  
*At the end of this session participants will be able to:*
- *recognise which actions have to be implemented before submission of annual accounts in February 2019*
  - *agree on further steps to be taken in order to improve process of preparation and submission of annual accounts.*
- 16.55 – 17.00 Wrap up and evaluations of the event