



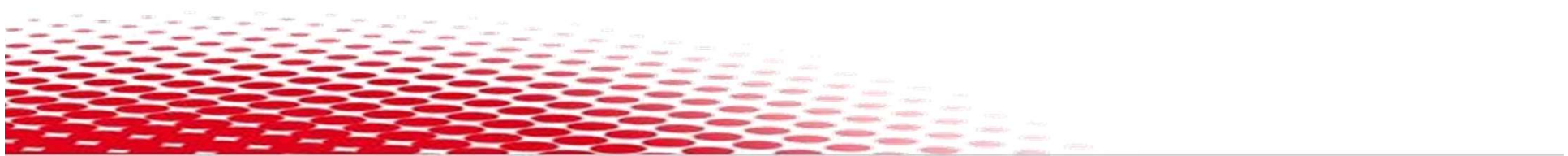
Annual accounts - piece of cake or a deal breaker?

Experiences by the Interreg programmes: SI-HU, SI-AT, SI-HR

Dimitrij Pur, Head of the Section, Deputy Head of the Managing Authority,

dimitrij.pur@gov.si

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- Programmes designated in April 2017
- 01.07.2016 - 30.06.2017:
 - no expenditures have been declared to the EC by 30 June
 - 100% administrative verifications: SI-AT 65, SI-HU 28, SI—HR 79 partner reports have been certified – most errors connected with the incomplete audit trail
 - remedial actions:
 - continuation of workshops for potential applicants and for reporting performed by MA/JS in cooperation with FLC
 - continuation of regular bilateral working group meetings on reporting and eligibility
 - frequently updating the question and answers concerning eligibility of expenditure on the programme website
 - and extension of use of Arachne at the level of FLC

Challenges:

- Additional administration burden/costs - not taking into account principle of proportionality in regard to the size of programme
- Negative influences on the liquidity of the ETC programmes (ETC programme are not pre-financed from the national funds)
- Time constraint:
 - late submission of the draft ACR (end of January)
 - limited time for the comparison of the content of ACR/MD and internal co-ordination
 - examination/acceptance of the accounts – will the EC use the maximum period of 3.5 months?

Challenges:

- Management Declaration – assurance by the MA - regardless that the MA has limited territorial influences in other national contexts (legal frameworks, public administration system)
- Double reporting periods create complications (either financial or accounting year)
- Length of Annual summary: stick to 5 pages

Benefits:

- Process require close formal/informal cooperation of the Authorities
- Resolving of differences in point of view on annual basis between the Authorities and on the contrary do not postpone to closure of the programme.

Conclusions:

- Too early to assess if the benefits of the new annual accounts system outweigh the new challenges (greater complexity)

