



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

IPA CBC
Programme Structures
and Implementation:
- the integrated approach

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Overview

- **Programme Structures**
 - **Financial Control**
 - **Lead partner principle**
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The programme bodies

- **Managing Authority**
 - **Certifying Authority**
 - **Audit Authority**

 - **Monitoring Committee**

 - **Joint Technical Secretariat**
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Joint Authorities

- **Managing Authority:** manages the programme
 - **Certifying Authority:** makes payment requests, receives funds from the Commission and makes payments to each project's lead partner
 - **Audit Authority:** verifies the effective functioning of the management and control system

 - One of each body per programme
 - Separation of functions is obligatory
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Managing Authority

- **Tasks:**

- ◆ ensuring the sound financial management of the programme and its projects
 - ◆ ensuring projects are selected in accordance with the established criteria
 - ◆ ensuring projects comply with EU and national rules
 - ◆ ensuring programme evaluation is carried out
 - ◆ providing all necessary documents and information to the programme Monitoring Committee
 - ◆ preparing the annual report of the programme
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Certifying Authority

- **Tasks:**

- ◆ preparing and submitting payment claims to the Commission
 - ◆ certifying that expenditure is accurate and in line with Community and national rules
 - ◆ taking account of all information received from the managing and audit authorities
 - ◆ tracking recoverable amounts
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Audit Authority

- **Tasks:**

- ◆ ensuring audits are carried out to verify the effective functioning of the programme's management and control system
 - ◆ ensuring audits are carried out on projects
 - ◆ submitting an annual control report to the Commission
 - ◆ issuing an opinion on whether the management and control system functions effectively
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Audit support

- Group of Auditors comprising one representative of each participating country
 - Set up within 3 months of programme start
 - Carries out the tasks of the Audit Authority
 - Chaired by the Audit Authority

 - Possible to decide that Audit Authority can carry out the duties across the whole programme
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Monitoring Committee

- Key tasks:
 - ◆ Charged with overseeing the implementation of the programme
 - ◆ National, regional and local level participation
 - ◆ Approves annual reports
 - ◆ Approves any proposal to amend the programme
 - ◆ Responsible for selecting projects - may create a **steering committee** for this task
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Joint Technical Secretariat

- Main duties:
 - ◆ Deals with the day-to-day management of the programme
 - ◆ Assists the Monitoring Committee and the management structures in carrying out their duties
 - ◆ Organises calls for projects, advises project partners, monitors project implementation
 - Location close the managing authority
 - ◆ Antenna possible on other side of the border
 - ◆ Pragmatic approach required for the Adriatic programme
 - ◆ International staffing required
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Management and Control Systems

- The management and control system must provide for:
 - ◆ what each body does
 - ◆ procedures ensuring the correctness and regularity of expenditure
 - ◆ reliable accounting, monitoring and financial reporting
 - ◆ the auditing of the functioning of the systems
 - ◆ ensuring an adequate audit trail
 - ◆ reporting and monitoring of irregularities and recoveries
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Control System

- Each participating country sets up a control system to verify the products or services co-financed by the programme
 - Controllers designated for each country, responsible for this task for partners in their country
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Lead Partner Principle (1)

- **The Lead Partner of a project is:**
 - ◆ chosen by the partners in the project
 - ◆ responsible for the implementation of the entire project
 - ◆ responsible for establishing the arrangements for relations among the partners
 - ◆ responsible for ensuring expenditure has been spent on the activities agreed among the partners
 - ◆ responsible for verifying that partners' expenditure has been validated by the relevant controllers
 - ◆ in charge of transferring funding to the partners
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Lead Partner Principle (2)

- Each partner is responsible in the event of any irregularity in the expenditure it has declared
 - In the event of an irregularity, the certifying authority recovers the funding from the lead partner
 - The lead partner then recovers the funding from the partner concerned
 - If such a recovery is not possible, the country of the relevant beneficiary shall reimburse the amount unduly paid
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Reflections

- System effectively identical to Structural Funds approach
 - Provides a sound, efficient implementation process which balances flexibility with financial rigour
 - Ensures good use of public funding
 - Prepares non-Member States for Structural Fund implementation
 - Provides Member States with more integrated co-operation programmes than previously possible
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Conclusions

- Important to finalise structures and locations early in the programme process
 - Experience shows that delays lead to late implementation of the whole programme
 - Crucial to avoid politicising exercise
 - Equally critical is the early establishment of the control system - in parallel with programme drafting
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