

Working group on State aid

Working group specification

Overview and purpose

Interreg programmes face challenges in their actions can be caught in State aid regulations. The General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) enables interventions from the state (such as Interreg projects) without triggering full State aid notification procedures. The GBER was amended in June 2023, as well as a number of times before. The latest amendment including a multi-stage consultation, with opportunities to seek to amend the regulation. Additionally, the general de minimis Regulation, also affecting State aid rules, was substantially changed and published in December 2023.

The working group on State aid particularly follows amendments and discussions on GBER and de minimis aids and supports Interreg programmes to advocate for simplification in the rules affecting Interreg. The group also discussed and proposed how to implement State aid assessment and monitoring in Jems.

The group has been running since 2014 and has followed the multi-stage consultation process of GBER and general de minimis regulation.

Entry criteria

There is no formal qualification, but advanced knowledge and experience in State aid, is essential. In particular, it is essential that the programme concerned has projects with State aid relevant activities and in applying either GBER or de minimis. Additionally, a pro-active approach, and the ability to contribute to the discussion and development of opinion papers is required.

The working group is not a learning environment, no working time is used to teaching basic level information which is available elsewhere. It is not a suitable or appropriate space to learn about State aid.

The Working Group is long running. It is not recruiting new members. Should a person wish to contribute to the working group, they should contact Przemyslaw Kniaziuk.

Report back and field of work alignment

The working group documentation will appear on the Interact website in the following location:

Finance and control > Other financial aspects > State aid

Membership list

The following programmes have agreed to participate in the Working Group:

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|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Interreg Central Baltic | 10. Interreg Italy - Slovenia |
| 2. Interreg Germany/Mecklenburg-
Western Pomerania/Brandenburg-
Poland | 11. Interreg Alpine Space |
| 3. Interreg Grande Région/Großregion | 12. Interreg Atlantic Area |
| 4. Interreg Greece - Bulgaria | 13. Interreg Baltic Sea Region |
| 5. Interreg Germany - The Netherlands | 14. Interreg Central Europe |
| 6. Interreg Sweden - Norway | 15. Interreg Danube |
| 7. Interreg Maas-Rhien | 16. Interreg EURO MED |
| 8. Interreg Belgium - The Netherlands
(Vlaanderen-Nederland) | 17. Interreg North Sea |
| 9. Interreg Italy - Croatia | 18. Interreg North West Europe |
| | 19. Interreg Europe |

Plus representatives of the national authorities of France, Poland and Spain

Approximate timeline of operation

The Working Group operates on an ongoing basis. It is activated whenever there is a discussion or consultation topic to react to.