

# **Financial reporting**

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Croatia



# **Topics:**

- Payment modalities
- Reporting
- Personnel costs and timesheets
- Changes in the budget
- Certification and audits



# **Payment modalities**



## **Pre-financing**

There is only one payment of pre-financing during the project:

➢ For projects with duration of more than two reporting periods, it should be equivalent to 160% of the average EC contribution per period.

➢ For projects with one or two reporting periods, the amount of the prefinancing should be between 60-80% of the total EC contribution.

The pre-financing payment will be received by the coordinator within
 45 days of the entry into force of the grant agreement and distributed to the other beneficiaries



### **Interim and final payments**

After the approval of the periodic reports <u>interim</u> <u>payments</u> will follow and will be calculated on the basis of the accepted eligible costs.

The interest generated on the amount of pre-financing will be deduced from the payment. Only for the coordinator.

The total amount of interim payments + pre-financing will be limited to 90% of the maximum EC contribution.

> The final payment will be transferred after the approval of the final reports and will be calculated:

Maximum EC contribution – amounts already paid = final payment



## **Guarantee fund**

Beneficiaries' financial responsibility is limited to their own debt.

➤To manage the financial risk, the beneficiaries contribute 5% of EC funding to Guarantee Fund. The contribution will be made from pre-financing.

The Fund will be returned to the beneficiaries with the final payment.

➤The Guarantee Fund is the property of the beneficiaries. The EC is managing the Fund by depositing it in a bank. Interest generated by the Fund will be used by the EC to recover the financial risk.



### **Funding during the project**

#### **3** year project receiving **3.000.000** € in EC contribution:

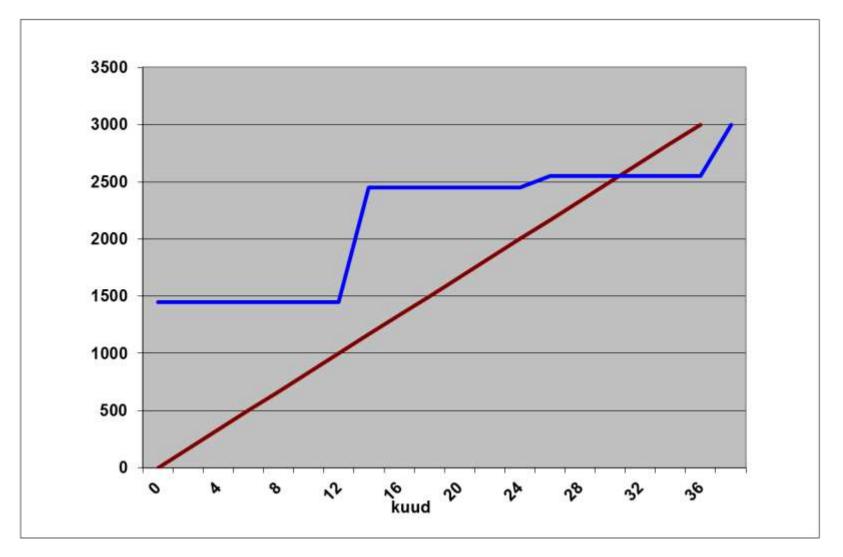
#### 1. First year

Pre-financing :	1.600.000 €1)
Guarantee fund contribution:	-150.000 € <sup>2)</sup>
Advance to consortium:	1.450.000 €
2. Second year	
1st interim payment to consortium:	1.000.000 €
3. Third year	
2nd interim payment to consortium:	100.000 € <sup>3)</sup>
4. After the project	
Final Payment to consortium:	300.000 €
+ Reimbursement from Guarantee F	150.000 €
Total Final payment:	450.000 €

- 1) 160% of average contribution per period
- 2) 5% of total EC contribution
- 3) Up to retention rate = 10% of total EC contribution



### **Funding during the project**





## Receipts

The financial contribution of the Union/Euratom may not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit for the beneficiaries.

#### What are Receipts?

- Financial transfers or their equivalent to the beneficiary from third parties;
- Contributions in kind from third parties;
- Income generated by the project;

#### What are not Receipts?

• Funding received by REA on previous periods!

If Total EU contribution + receipts ≤ total eligible costs = No reduction of EU/Euratom contribution



# Reporting

Periodic scientific report shall be submitted within 60 days after the end of each respective period. This shall inform the Commission about the scientific progress of the work.

➤Final scientific report shall be submitted within 60 days after the end of the project. This shall present the final results and conclusions of the project, describe their use and dissemination, and include achievements, such as publications.

Periodic financial management report shall be submitted for each reporting period within 60 days after the end of each period. The financial report consist of the so called Form C and the "allocation of budget".



# **Deliverables and milestones**

In the project application and also in the annex I of the grant agreement you need to define your project deliverables and milestones.

**Deliverables** are different reports on the progress of the project (reports, publications, information materials like leaflets, web-page concept etc.)

**Milestones** are project goals that should be achieved by a certain point of the project (background inormation collected, prototype ready, web-page up, handbook ready, conference organized etc.)

	List of Delivera – includi				review to l nformation		
Del. no. <sup>15</sup>	Deliverable name	WP no.	Lead particip ant	Estimated indicative person- months	Nature <sup>16</sup>	Dissemi- nation level 17	Delivery date <sup>18</sup> (project month)
			TOTAL				



# **Financial reporting – Form C**

1- Declaration of eligible costs/lump sum/flat rate/scale of unit (in €)

		Ту	pe of Activity			
	RTD (A)	Demonstr ation (B)	Coordinati on/Support (C)	Managem ent (D)	Other (E)	TOTAL (A+B+C+D +E)
Personnel costs	100 000	10 000	0	10 000	0	120 000
Subcontracting	10 000	0	0	0	0	10 000
Other direct costs	50 000	0	0	1000	0	51 000
Indirect costs	90 000	6000	0	6600	0	102 600
Access Costs Lump sum/flat rate/scale of						0
unit declared			0	0	0	0
Total	250 000	16 000	0	17 600	0,00	283 600
Maximum EC contribution	187 500	8000	0	17 600	0	213 100
Requested EC contribution	187 500	8000	0	17 600	0	213 100







### **Submitting the financial report**

#### Report on the costs of 1 period

1. Partner

fills in the Form C electronically and submits to the coordinator

2. Coordinator

collects and checks all the form C-s and sends them to the Commission

#### 3. Partner

prints the form C, stamps, authorized representative signs 2 copys, sends to the coordinator

#### 4. Coordinator

Collects the paper form C-s, checks them and send to the project officer

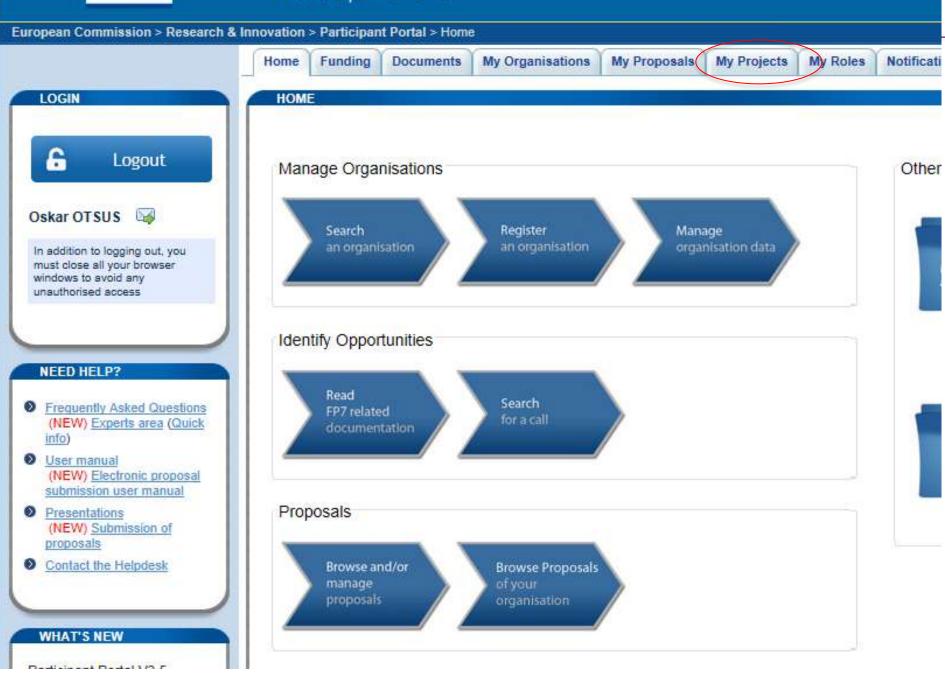
New projects (starting 2013) will sign form C-s electronically

Ongoing projects can choose to use electronic signature as well

Amendments have to be sent separately

European Commission

#### Participant Portal





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# **Personnel costs**



### **Personnel costs**

You must know the value of your **person month** 

Person month = salary + social charges + regular bonuses

Example:

Your person month rate is 2500 €

Researcher works 6 month for the project (50% of his time)

Personnel costs = 2 500 \* 6/2 = 7 500

In FP7 you have to keep **timesheets**, unless you have a better system of proving your dedicated working time. Timesheets must be filled in with one day accuracy.

Standard productive hours = 1680 hours/per year = 140 hours/per month

This means: **1 person month = 140 hours** 



### **Productive hours**

Question: How many hours is 1 person month?

#### You need to know the number of your productive hours

European Commission calculation for standard productive hours:

Days/year: 365 Weekends: 104 Vacation: 21 National holidays: 15 Average days on sick leave: 15 **Working days in year**: 365-104-21-15-15 = **210** Hours per one working day: 8 hours Productive hours per year: 210 x 8 = 1680

Productive hours per month: 1680/12 = 140



# **Time contributed to the project**

Timesheets are mandatory in FP7 projects, unless you have a better time recording system. Even people working full time for the project are recommended to use timesheets.

#### Minimum recuirements for timesheets:

- Beneficiary name
- Name and signature of the employee
- Project name
- Number of hours worked (daily)
- Name and signature of the superior
- Timesheets must comply with sick leaves, holidays and travels

#### Additional recommendations for timesheets

- Hours devided by work packages
- Explanation of work done

#### Number of hours envisaged i.e. according to the employment contract: 20 hours/week

2008 January

Indicate the time in hours Only the yellow cells are writeable 14 15 16 17 Date 10 11 18 19 24 25 28 29 30 31 Total Day Sun Mo Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun Mo EU-Projects R&D Activities Project x 3.5 58.5 з Project y 15,5 5,5 Project z Total RTD 5.5 3.5 q C C Demonstration Project x Project y Project z Total Demonstration C C C Management 17,5 Project x 3,5 Project y Project z 3,5 17,5 Total Managemen C п Other Activities Project x З Project y Project z Total Other Internal and National Projects 12.5 Feaching 2.5В Total 12.5 2.5 Absences Annual Leave Special Leave liness Total Absences C Total productive hours Q Total hours

Productive hours per project:	Project x	84
	Project y	15,5
	Project z	0

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# Holiday fees

- •Holiday allowances are eligible in FP7 projects
- •Holiday allowances payd from the project budget must be in proportion with your time dedicated to the project.
- •Your vacation must take place during the lifetime of the project
- •You don't need to fill in your days spent on holidays in the timesheets



# **Changes in budget**

- During the lifetime of the project you can change the budget, but the entire work described in the Description of Work must be done
- All changes must be approved by the coordinator
- If there is a need to change activities foreseen in the Description of Work it must be approved by the project officer
- It is possible to change the allocation of budget between project partners, but the EC contribution always remains the same.
- Person months are not very strict. If you declare that your person month rate is 3000 €, it does not mean you have to pay all your employees 3000 €. The total budget for personnel costs is constant and average salaries should not differ much from the person month rate.
- The European Commission is always happy if you show you have contributed more to the project than foreseen :)



## **Audits**

>Audit of the Methology is neccessary for beneficiaries using the real indirect costs to be performed once in the lifetime of FP7. It can be used for all FP7 Grant Agreements.

>Audit of the Financial Statement is obligatory only in the case of reimbursement of real costs, when EC contribution is over 375 000.-EUR.

➤The EC may, at any time during the project and up to 5 years after the end of the project, arrange for financial, systemic and technical audits to be carried out by external auditors or by the EC staff including European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF).



# **Most Frequent errors in FP7**

- 1. Costs claimed that are not substantiated or are not linked to the project
- 2. Third parties and sub-contracting
- 3. Depreciation
- 4. Indirect cost models
- 5. Indirect costs Ineligible costs included in the pool of indirect costs
- 6. Personnel costs Calculation of productive hours
- 7. Personnel costs charging of hours worked on the project
- 8. Personnel costs Use of average personnel costs
- 9. Payment of salaries to owner/managers of SMEs
- 10. VAT



## We talked about:

- Payment modalities
- Reporting
- Personnel costs
- Changes in Budget
- Auditing
- Most common errors

# **Questions?**

#### **Oskar Otsus**

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