



DG Justice and Consumers

Financial Management Financial Reporting

**JUST/2014/RDIS/AG/DISC
JUST/2014/RGEN/AG/GEND
JUST/2014/RDAP/AG/HARM**

Kick-off meeting – 25 February 2016

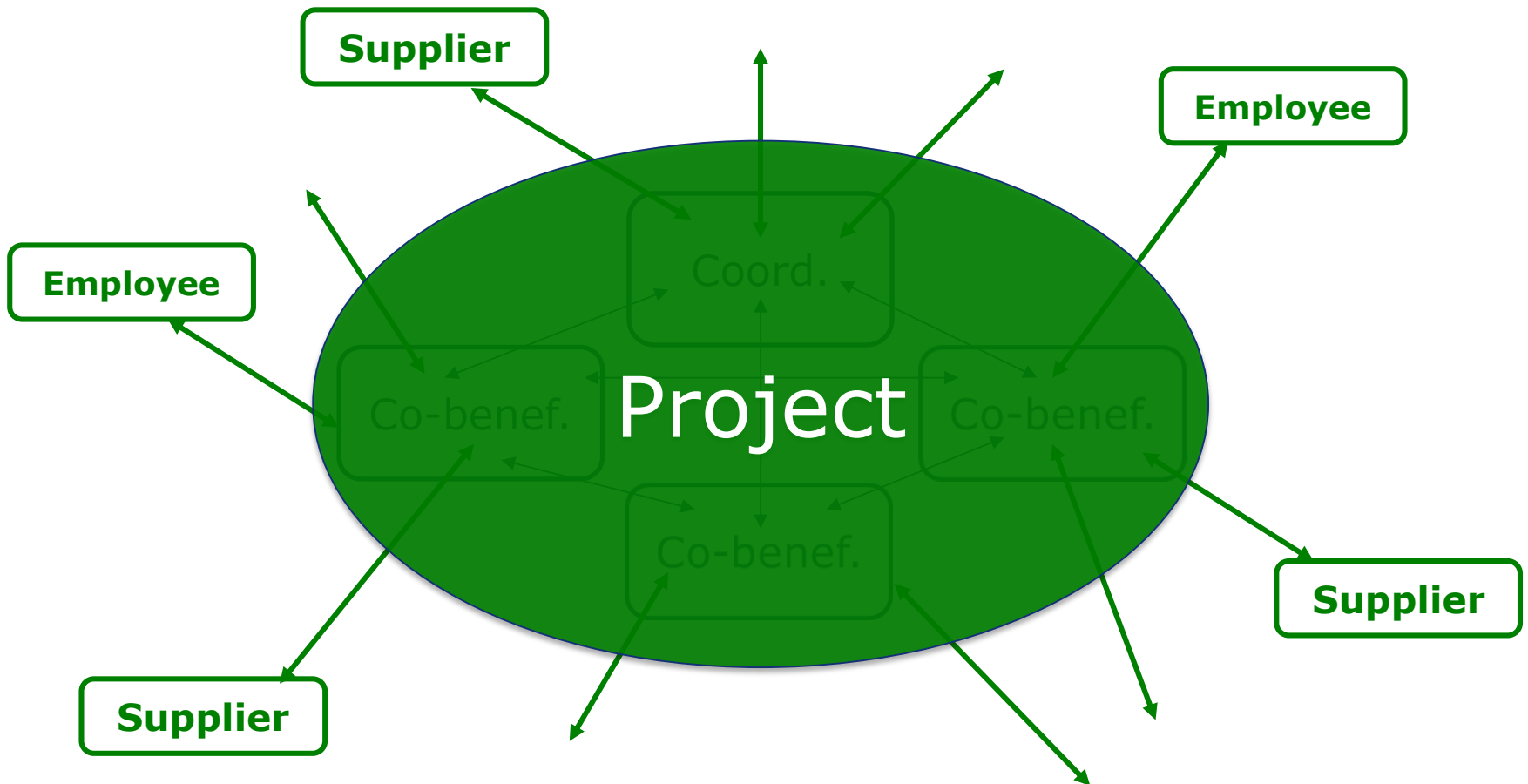
Today's Programme

- ➔ Relations between Beneficiaries
- ➔ Request for Final Payment & Financial Statement
- ➔ Eligible Costs: 6 Categories
- ➔ Ineligible Costs
- ➔ Income: 3 Categories
- ➔ Ex-post Audit
- ➔ Last Minute Tips



European
Commission

Relations between Beneficiaries Flows of Money



Relations between Beneficiaries

Coordinator



Request for Final Payment

- Prepared and submitted by the Coordinator
- Sent both as paper copy **and excel file**
- Cost Claim
 - ⚠ **signed** by the legal representative
- Financial Statement includes:
 - Budget & Execution Summary
 - Detailed Budget Execution

Financial Statement

- Follows the same structure as the estimated budget
- Includes all project expenses and income
- Ideally, is prepared throughout the project duration
- Helps the Commission assess eligibility of costs
- Calculates the final EU contribution
the final payment / recovery

Financial Statement

- Costs reported must be registered in the accounts of the beneficiaries
- Beneficiaries should set up in their accounts a cost-revenue centre specific to the project
- Costs are reported in the currency in which they were incurred and then converted to € in the F.S.
e.g. salary in Hungary is paid in HUF => cost reported in HUF



Always favour payment by bank transfer

Request for Final Payment Supporting Documents

- Upon request of documentary evidence, the Coordinator sends only **copies**
Originals are kept with the beneficiary
- The payment period of 90 days is suspended until receipt of all information and documents requested
- Where the amount on the invoice is not the same as the amount reported, please provide an explanation

Eligible Costs

Reference:

- Grant Agreement, Annex II General Conditions: Article II.19
- Guide for Action Grants 2014: Section V
 1. General provisions on eligible expenditure
 2. Detailed provisions per budget heading
 3. Supporting documentation per budget heading

The Guide for Action Grants 2014 is available under the relevant webpage of each call.

Eligible costs

(Annex II, Article II.19)

- Incurred during eligibility period defined in Article I.2.2
- Indicated in the estimated budget in Annex III
- Incurred in connection with and necessary for the action described in Annex I
- Identifiable and verifiable in the beneficiary's accounting (real costs)
- Comply with the requirements of applicable fiscal tax and social legislation
- Reasonable, justified and complying with the principle of sound financial management (economy and efficiency)

6 Categories of Costs

A – Staff

B – Travel & Subsistence

C – Equipment

D – Consumables

E – Other Direct Costs

F – Indirect Costs

Calculation of Staff Costs

$$\frac{\text{Annual gross salary + social charges}}{\text{Total actual annual productive working days or hours}} \times \text{actual days or hours working on the project as substantiated by timesheets}$$

- Annual Gross Salary + Social Charges = costs actually paid by the beneficiary in the timeframe of a year, including: salary, taxes, employer's contribution for national security schemes, etc.
- Total actual annual productive time = total time in days or hours worked in the timeframe of a year

NB: time spent on meetings, activities, training and similar activities are considered as productive working time



Reported amounts must be clearly identifiable from the supporting documents

Staff Costs: Supporting Documents

Permanent staff (on payroll):

- Existing contract
- Secondment letter
with description of tasks, reference to the project, duration, time allocated to the project, hourly/daily rate
- Monthly salary slips (or summary for the year)
- Timesheets
NB: not necessary for staff working exclusively for the project
- Proof of payment
- Calculation of the hourly/daily rate & reported cost
=> Worksheet 'Staff Cost Calculation'

Staff Costs: Supporting Documents

Permanent staff: civil servants

In addition to all documents required for permanent staff:

- In case of over-time: proof of payment of overtime or proof of the additional days granted by the public body as compensation of the overtime worked in the project
- In case the person is replaced for his/her normal work: contract of the additionally recruited person
- In case the staff cost does not represent an additional cost: no additional documents are required BUT

NB: these costs are eligible only if covered by the own contributions to the project

Staff Costs: Supporting Documents

Non-permanent staff specifically recruited for the project (on payroll):

- Specific contract linked to the project
indicating tasks, reference to the project,
duration, time allocated to the project,
hourly/daily rate
- Salary slips
- Proof of payment (by bank transfer)

Staff Costs: Supporting Documents

Natural person with a contract other than an employment contract (not on the payroll of the beneficiary):

- Specific contract linked to the project
including tasks, reference to the project, duration, time allocated to the project, hourly/daily rate
- Invoices
indicating the tasks performed, date, number of hours/days worked, the price per hour/day
- Proofs of payment (by bank transfer)
- Timesheets
(not necessary when working exclusively on the project)

NB: Staff Costs of Natural Persons

➤ *Assimilated to staff costs under 3 conditions:*

- 1) The person works
 - under the instructions of the beneficiary
 - on the premises of the beneficiary (unless otherwise agreed with the beneficiary)
- 2) The result of the work belongs to the beneficiary
- 3) The costs are not significantly different from the costs of staff performing similar tasks under an employment contract with the same beneficiary

Otherwise considered in "E - Other Costs"

Timesheets

=> Kept either on a weekly or monthly basis

- Grant agreement number
- Name of the employer
- Name of the employee
- Number of days / hours worked on the project
- Number of days / hours worked on other activities
- Total number of days or hours worked
- Details of the tasks performed on this project
- Date and signature of the employee
- Date and signature of the project manager/supervisor

Staff Costs: Common Reasons of Ineligibility

- Staff contracted by organisations other than those mentioned in the Grant Agreement as beneficiaries
- Daily/hourly rates claimed are those budgeted
- **Inflated daily/hourly rates** (Rates at which staff is charged to the project must correspond to the individual Beneficiaries' normal policy on remuneration and should not significantly exceed the rates currently applicable in the relevant area - both geographically and with respect to the profile of the staff concerned).
- Wrong calculation of daily/hourly rates
- Costs not matching payslips / Lack of payslips
- Lack of timesheets or unsuitable timesheets provided
- Volunteer work costs
- Work done outside the eligibility period

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Travel and Subsistence Costs

- Directly linked to the project
- Travel made by persons taking part in the action (staff, participants to meetings, seminars, etc.)
- In line with the beneficiary's usual practices and systems
- Additional events, persons, countries, must be notified and justified

Travel and Subsistence Costs

- *Travel*: travel costs (i.e. flight, train, car, etc.)
from the point of origin to the point of destination
including transfer from/to airport or train station

NB: The most economical fare should be applied

- *Subsistence allowance*: accommodation, meals, local travel
within the place of mission

NB: Reimbursement of real costs should be favoured

Reimbursement of a lump sum / per diem in
application of beneficiary's usual practice

Supporting Documents for Travel Costs

- Travel invoice
- Transport ticket
(train receipt, bus ticket, etc.)
- Travel by car: reimbursement claim, calculation of amount, internal reimbursement policy
NB: up to the equivalent of first class rail fare
- Proof of payment or reimbursement
- Attendance list signed by the participants for meetings, seminars, conferences, etc.

Supporting Doc. for Subsistence Costs

Reimbursement on the basis of real costs:

- Expenses reimbursement claim form
- Accommodation invoice
- All receipts related to food, beverages, local transport and other expenses
- Proof of reimbursement
- Attendance list signed by the participants for meetings, seminars, conferences, etc.

Supporting Doc. for Subsistence Costs

Reimbursement of a lump sum / per diem:

=> in application of beneficiary's usual practice

- Copy of the internal policy
- Reimbursement claim
- Calculation of the amount paid
- Proof of payment (bank transfer is preferred)
- Attendance list signed by the participants for meetings, seminars, conferences, etc.

Important Notes on Per Diem

- Within the limits per country set out by the Commission http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/funding/about-calls-tender/procedures-and-practical-guide-prag/diems_en
- 62% per diem = accommodation
- 38 % per diem = subsistence
- Accommodation part is accepted when overnight stay is requested
- When breakfast / lunch / dinner is offered, the subsistence part of per diem is reduced accordingly:
 - breakfast = 15%
 - lunch = 30%
 - diner = 30%
 - local transport and sundry expenses = 25%

Travel and Subsistence Costs: Common Reasons of Ineligibility

- Missing documents – e.g. missing proof of presence
- Taxi where public transport could have been used
- Undue subsistence allowance paid
- Per diem exceeding the threshold per country
- Travel and subsistence allowance costs for activities outside the EU
- Missing proof of payment / bank transfer

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Equipment

- Computer, audiovisual equipment, etc.
- Only if strictly necessary and specifically for the project's core activities
- Purchased during the implementation period
- Must be itemized and bear an inventory number
- Supplier chosen according to the best value for money principle

Equipment

- Eligible cost = only the depreciation cost of equipment at a rate that reflects the **degree** and **duration of use** within the project
- **Depreciation** cf. national tax and accounting rules

When a beneficiary does not have any specific rules, apply the method indicated in the Guide for Action Grants 2014



Rental costs of own premises = Indirect costs

Costs of purchase of land and immovable property
= ineligible

Equipment: Supporting Documents

- Invoice showing date of purchase and delivery
- Proof of payment
- Beneficiary's accounting practice regarding depreciation
- Calculation of the depreciation amount requested

Common Reasons of Ineligibility

- Invoice not addressed to one of the Beneficiaries
- Full cost claimed
- Cost claimed does not reflect the period and percentage used for the implementation of the grant

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Consumables

- Identifiable and exclusively used for the project
- Real costs necessary to produce the outputs and strictly related to the activities of the project
- Their cost is traceable and distinct from normal running costs
- Goods of a short length of life
=> not registered as fixed assets in the accounts / inventory and not written off



General office supplies (pens, paper, folders, ink cartridges, electricity, telephone, postal services, Internet connection time, computer software, etc.) are indirect costs

Consumables: Supporting Documents

- Invoice and proof of payment

Common Reasons of Ineligibility

- Invoice not addressed to one of the Beneficiaries
- Cost cannot be linked to the project, cannot be traced or is part of the normal running costs
- Cost claimed = general office supplies
=> not eligible, covered by overheads
- Cost not foreseen in Annex III of Grant Agreement

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Other Direct Costs

3 sub-categories of costs:

- **Publications and dissemination**

- costs of layout, editing, printing, translation, project-specific website creation, etc.

- **Conferences and seminars**

- rental of rooms, interpretation, coffee breaks, lunches, seminar materials, etc.

- **Costs not falling into any other categories**

Other Direct Costs

Publications and dissemination:

- Exclusively linked to the project
- Visibility rules & disclaimer on all deliverables
- Clear and precise reporting: type of publication, number of pages, price per unit, number of copies, languages, etc.
- Any related incomes from books/tickets sold => declared under category "I – Income"

Other Direct Costs

Conferences and seminars:

- Linked to the organisation of project-related events
- Avoid reimbursement in cash (e.g. speakers fees / interpretation services)
- Avoid double reimbursement of meals
when meals are offered, subsistence costs must be reduced accordingly

Other Direct Costs

Costs not falling under any other cost category:

- Comply with the agreement's requirements, obligations and general eligibility rules
- Directly linked to the project's activities
- Examples:
 - fees for experts
 - fees for financial guarantee
 - costs of audits and project's evaluation reports
 - purchase of copyrights and other intellectual property rights
 - purchase of information materials (studies, electronic data, etc.)

Award of Contracts

- Procurement of goods, services, equipment, consumables, supplies, etc., needed to carry out the project
- Contract awarded based on 2 principles: **tender offering the best value for money or the lowest price** and **avoid any conflict of interests**
 - => You must therefore request several offers**
- Public bodies shall follow national procurement rules
- The beneficiary has sole responsibility for carrying out the action
- The contractor has no rights *vis-à-vis* the Commission
- The Beneficiaries /the Associate Partners cannot be subcontractors
- The conditions of the grant on liability for damages, conflict of interests, confidentiality, ownership, intellectual property rights, checks, audits and evaluation apply also to the contractor.

Subcontracting Rule

- Procurement contract which covers the implementation by a third party of tasks forming part of the action as described in Annex I.
- May only cover the execution of a **limited** part of the action: maximum 30 %
- **No core activities, no management tasks**
- Must be justified by the nature of the action and be necessary for its implementation
- The tasks concerned must be set out in Annex I and the related costs must be set out in detail in Annex III
- Any recourse to subcontracts while the action is under way, **if not provided for in the initial grant application**, shall be notified to the Commission



All rules on the award of contracts also apply !

Other Direct Costs: Supporting Documents

- Invoice(s) with indication of:
 - title of publication / translation / event
 - number of pages
 - number of copies
 - language(s)
 - date of service provided
 - date of the event
 - etc.
- Proof(s) of payment
(bank transfer showing payment to the supplier)

Award of Contracts – Supporting Documents

In addition to invoice(s) and proof(s) of payment:

- Tender procedure followed
 - proof of other offers received
 - comparisons of individual offers
 - minutes of meetings/decision process
 - etc.
- Subcontracting agreement
(including the terms listed in the Guide)

Other direct costs: Common reasons of rejection

- Invoice does not have any link to the project
e.g. title of publication, date when activity took place, etc., are missing
 - Lack of visibility of the EU financial support and of the EU logo on publications or other outputs
 - Costs not foreseen in Annex III of the Grant Agreement
 - Publication not available yet when submitting final report
 - Cost incurred outside the eligibility period
- NB: Cost must be contracted within the eligibility period and must relate to activities that took place within the eligibility period!
- Audit costs: the contract must be signed within the eligibility period. (The invoice and proof of payment may then be dated outside the eligibility period.)

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Indirect Costs

- Necessary to the project but not specifically linked to it
- General indirect costs needed to employ, manage, accommodate and support directly the personnel working in the project
 - office space, electricity, heating, insurances, management and administrative costs, telephone, internet, office furniture, ...
- Calculated as a percentage of eligible direct costs after analysis of the costs by the Commission
- Percentage specified in Art. I.3 of the Grant Agreement (May never exceed 7% of direct eligible costs)



Any beneficiary receiving an operating grant from the EU budget cannot request indirect costs in the final statement for an action grant covering the same period

Indirect Costs

- No supporting documents are required
Indirect costs do not need to be justified

Common Reasons of Rejection

- % overheads requested higher than agreed in Art. I.3
- One of the beneficiaries has an operating grant running within the same period as the action grant

Ineligible costs (non-exhaustive list)

- Excessive or reckless expenditure
- Gifts, flowers, recreational costs, cultural activities
- Financial incentives, e.g. for persons replying to a survey
- Travels and subsistence costs of EU officials
- Fees for EU officials
- Costs declared but not supported by adequate justifying documents
- Costs declared by a beneficiary and covered by another action or work programme receiving an EU grant

Ineligible costs (non-exhaustive list)

- VAT incurred by public bodies when acting as a public authority
- Deductible VAT
- Exchange losses
- Costs of transfers from the Commission charged by the bank of the beneficiary
- Return on capital
- Debt and debt service charges
- Provisions for losses or debts
- Interest owed
- Doubtful debts
- Contribution in kind from third parties

3 Categories of Income

- I: Financial contributions specifically assigned by donors to the financing of the eligible costs
& Income generated by the financed activities

- K: Other income, including own contribution from beneficiaries

- J: Pre-financing already received

Ex-post Audit (Annex II Art. II.27)

- Be aware that your project can be randomly selected for an ex-post audit

=> all contracts, invoices, proof of payments, receipts, accounting records, technical and financial evidence, etc., must be available



Keep all documentation
for a period of at least 5 years
after final payment/recovery

- As a result of the audit, the Commission may recover any payments made to the beneficiary

Last Minute Tips

- Read and re-read the Guide for Action Grants 2014
- Make sure your Co-beneficiaries read it too
- Guide for Actions Grants 2014 and reporting templates: see webpage of your call
- Questions after this kick-off meeting? Address them to EC-REC-GRANTS@ec.europa.eu or EC-JUSTICE-GRANTS@ec.europa.eu

Thank you for your attention!

Good luck with your project!