

Management reporting of action grants

SOCPL – Kick Off Meeting

DG Employement Social affairs and inclusion

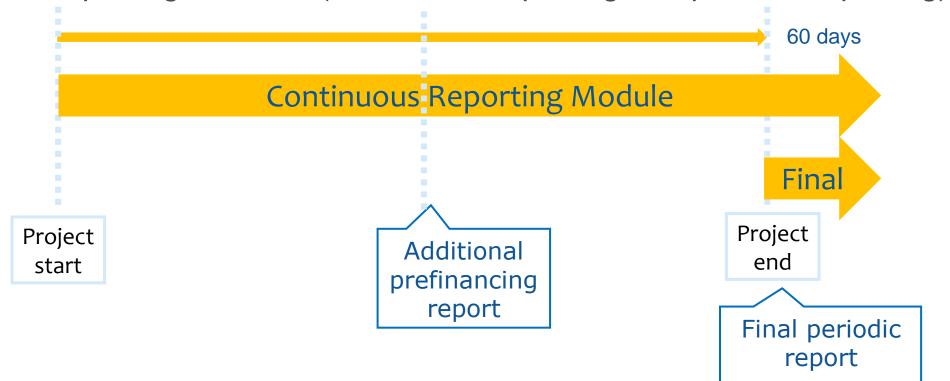
Unit EMPL G4 Financial Management and Procurement Center

24 October 2023

Reporting When?

Art 21 of the GA:

- 2 or more reporting periods (additional prefinancing(s) + final)
- 2 reporting modules (continuous reporting and periodic reporting)





Reporting: What?

Continuous reporting

- Submit Deliverables (as described in DoA)
- Indicate progress in achieving milestones

Additional prefinancing report

Technical report

- Part A: continuous reporting
- Part B: technical report

Final periodic report

Technical report

- Part A: continuous reporting
- Part B: technical report

- Updates to communication and dissemination activities
- Response to critical risks

Financial report

 Statement on the use of the previous prefinancing payment (including consumption table)

Financial report

- Individual financial statements
- Certificate on the financial statements.



Reports & payment requests

The project coordinator receives:

- a first pre-financing payment after the signature of the Grant Agreement → 30 days from entry into force
- an additional pre-financing payment after the first reporting period <u>following</u> the request for pre-financing
- the payment of the balance (final payment) after the end of the second reporting period, following the request for Final payment
- → Amounts and timelines are defined in the Grant Agreement (point 4.2 Data Sheet) and showed in the E-grants portal



Only eligible costs

Art. 6 Grant Agreement

- Actually incurred by the beneficiary
- Incurred during the project lifetime
- Incurred in connection with the action
- Identifiable and verifiable

- Comply with national law
- Reasonable, justified and compliant with sound financial management (economy and efficiency)



Art 6.2.A - Personnel Costs

Salaries

- + social charges
- + taxes and other costs (see art. 6)

annual costs of the employee

215 days

Gather complete documents from the beginning: Timesheets – indication of the WPs Salary documents days spent for the project for the year recorded in the **timesheets**

number of actual days worked for the action

Specific cases (eg: supplementary hours; part time please refer to <u>article 6.2 of the Annotated Grant Agreement</u>



What is 'human effort' (person-months) and how to calculate it

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

An estimate of 'human effort' is necessary to evaluate the relationship between the estimated work to be performed and the scale, type and number of activities and deliverables to be achieved during the implementation period. At reporting stage this estimate should reflect the actual time spent per work package

NB: Staff costs must correspond to normal salary rates (documented by salary grids, long-term work contracts, etc.) and cannot significantly exceed the rates generally applicable in the relevant geographical area and for the staff profiles in question (as required for the project).



What is 'human effort' (person-months) and how to calculate it

HOW IS IT CALCULATED?

The estimated human effort by work package in Part B can be calculated as follows (indicative method): if 1 year = 215 (working) days, then 1 month = 215/12 = 17.91 (working) days. So, 24 full working days for one person would be 1.34 person-months.

To calculate the total person-months, multiply the proportion of your effort associated with the project by the number of months of the appointment.



Art 6.2.B - Subcontracting

- Eligibility conditions:
 - Art 6,1 (incurred during action duration, necessary to implementation...
 - Be based either on best value for money or if appropriate the lowest price and
 - Not be subject to conflict of interest



Art 6.2.B - Subcontracting

Subcontractors vs suppliers of goods, works and services

The core criterion for distinguishing between subcontracts and contracts/purchases is whether they concern action tasks as set out in the description of the action (DoA Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement).

Subcontracts	Purchases
Subcontracts concern the implementation of 'action tasks' described in Annex 1 DoA.	Purchases concern any other contracting cost (travel, equipment, goods, works and services) that are necessary for the beneficiaries to implement the work (can range from big equipment to petty goods) but do not constitute by themselves an action task described in Annex 1 DoA.
The price for the subcontracts will be declared as 'Subcontracting costs' in the financial statement.	The price for these contracts will be declared in one of the 'Purchase costs' columns in the financial statement.

Example (subcontracts): Subcontract to organise a conference that is set as part of the tasks in the Annex 1 DoA.

Example (purchases): Contract for an audit certificate on the financial statements; contract for the translation of documents; contract for the publication of brochures; contract for the creation of a website that enables the beneficiaries to work together (if creating the website is just a project management tool and not a separate subcontracted 'action task'); contract for organisation of the rooms and catering for a meeting (if the organisation of the meeting is not a separate subcontracted 'action task'); contract for hiring IPR consultants/agents needed for the project.



Travel and subsistence, equipment & other goods, works and services

AGA - Art 6.C.1, C.2, C.3

Travel, accommodation and subsistence costs

- Linked to the project activities
- Unit costs in accordance with method set out in annex 2 of the GA and <u>Commission decision C2021)35</u> <u>final</u> and <u>Amendment Commission</u> <u>Decision C(2023)4928</u>

Equipment

Equipment - only depreciation costs are eligible

Other goods, works and services

 Costs of renting and leasing equipment – eligible, if they do not exceed the depreciation costs of similar equipment



Travel, accommodation and subsistence – unit costs

- The use of unit costs covering travel and subsistence costs is compulsory except for travels to countries not indicated in the decision. In this case, the actual costs approach is to be retained.
- The subsistence allowance (formerly named "daily allowance") is meant to cover living expenses during a participant's travel. The subsistence allowance covers in particular breakfast, lunch and dinner, transport of less than 50 km and other expenditure, except for the accommodation.
- A subsistence allowance is paid on the basis of a <u>unit cost per</u> <u>participant per day</u>, whether the participant has been travelling or not
- Catering costs under C.3 are therefore ineligible.



Unit costs for travels

1. travel only by air $(\geq 400Km)$

OR

1. travel only by rail (≥ 400 Km)

OR

1. travel combining air and rail

Apply 1 unit cost per distance band (point 5.1)

2. travel <u>only by land</u> (between 50 and 399km)

> intra-Member State travel

Apply 1 unit cost per Member State (point 5.2)

> inter-Member State travel

Apply 1 unit cost between two MS (point 5.3)



Transfer between budget categories (art 5.5)

- The budget breakdown may be adjusted without an amendment— by transfers (between participants and budget categories),
- as long as this does not imply any <u>substantive or important change</u> to the description of the action in Annex 1.
- Exception: Addition of amounts for subcontracts not provided for in Annex 1 either require an amendment or simplified approval in accordance with Article 6.
- Always consult the Project Officer about the budget transfers that you want to apply.



Most frequent errors

- Staff costs / effort wrongly calculated
- Lack of supporting documents (e.g. timesheets, contracts)
- Claimed costs do not match supporting documents
- Claimed costs are not incurred by the beneficiaries and cannot be traced in their accounting records

- Costs claimed for activities outside eligibility period
- Costs claimed for activities carried out in non-eligible countries
- Costs claimed are not linked to the project's activities
- Costs already covered by indirect costs (e.g. general running costs)
- No mentioning of EU emblem



Certificate on Financial Statements (CFS) art. 24.2 GA

At beneficiary level, if

- 1. For Requested contribution > 325.000 EUR
- 2. To be provided by an independent qualified auditor
- 3. <u>Certificate template</u> available on the Participant Portal (including Terms of Reference part)



Checks, reviews and audits – art. 25 GA

- Checks: the Commission may check supporting documents.
- Reviews: on-the-spot visits.
- Audits: up to 5 years after payment of the balance.

Keep supporting documentation for up to five years after payment of the balance (art. 13 GA)



Reporting How?

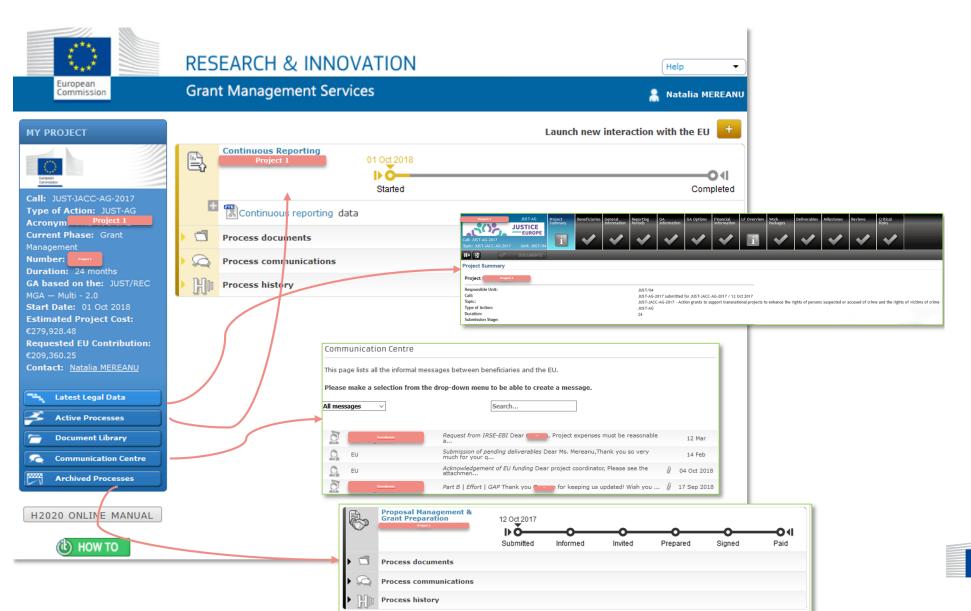
- Continuous reporting
- Additional prefinancing report
- Final periodic report



Manage your grant - IT How To - Funding Tenders Opportunities (europa.eu)



Continuous reporting



European

Commission

Continuous reporting open from the date of entry into force of the GA data

to be submitted as they are available



Do not forget!





Some links – Continuous Reporting

- Continuous Reporting IT How To Funding Tenders Opportunities (europa.eu)
- Completing the Project Summary
- Completing the Deliverables IT How To Funding Tenders Opportunities (europa.eu)
- Completing the Milestones
- Completing the Critical Risks IT How To Funding Tenders Opportunities (europa.eu)
- Completing the Dissemination Activities
- Completing the Communication Activities
- Completing the Events and Trainings

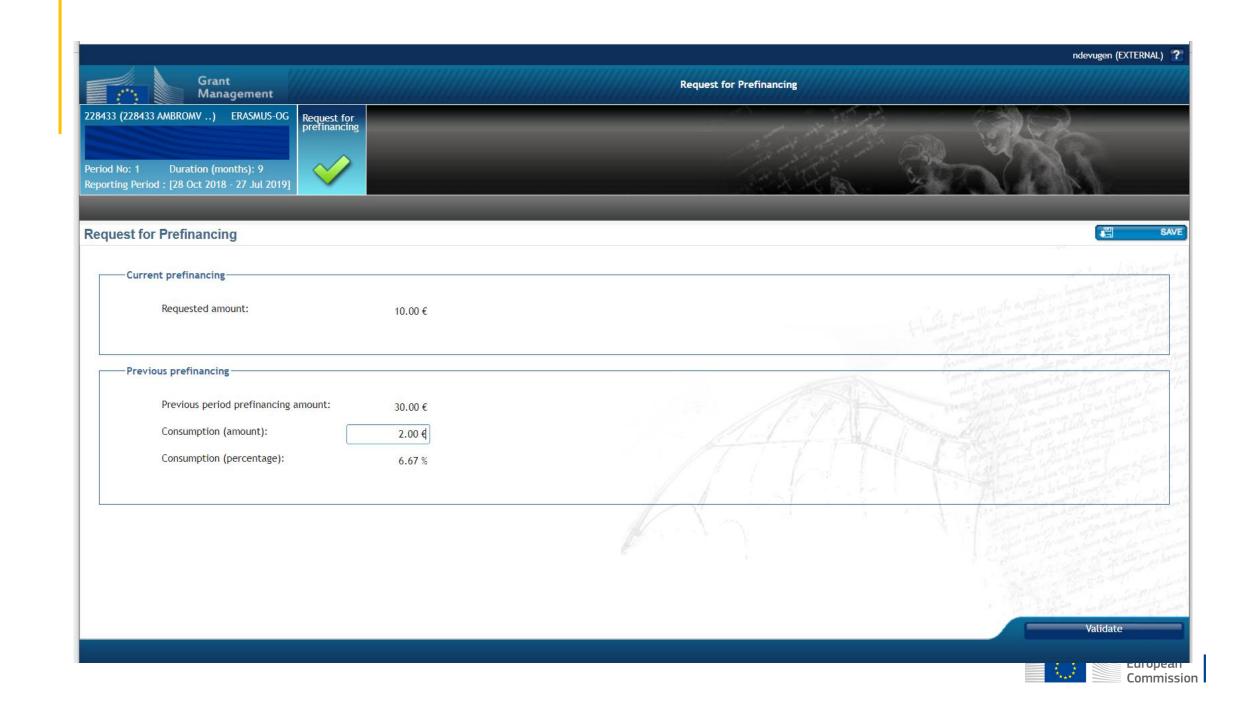


Periodic Report for the "Request for Additional Prefinancing"

- **Technical part:** structured info with project information (retrieved from the Grant Management System) + the narrative part requires the participants to report on differences (delays, work not implemented, new subcontracts, budget overruns etc.) It must be uploaded as PDF document.
- Financial Part: To include info in the system on the consumed amount of the previous pre-financing (no template).

The system will automatically calculate the percentage of consumption of the previous pre-financing and the possible reduction for the next pre-financing payment (in case less than 70% of the previous pre-financing amount was used)

As supporting document to the request for pre-financing \rightarrow short table including the costs incurred during the 1st periodic report (send via the external communication tool)



Some links - Request for Additional Prefinancing

- Reporting process Request for Additional Prefinancing IT How To -Funding Tenders Opportunities (europa.eu)
- How to complete your technical part of the periodic report IT How To -Funding Tenders Opportunities (europa.eu)
- Reporting process general
- Grant management services system
- periodic-report_esf-socpl_en.pdf (europa.eu)



Periodic Report for the "Request for Final Payment"

- The periodic report consists of two parts:
 - 1) the Technical Report
 - 2) the Financial Report
- The Technical Report is itself also divided in two parts, Parts A and B:
 - Part A → contains the structured tables with project information (retrieved from the Grant Management System).
 - Part B → the narrative part: includes explanations of the work carried out by the beneficiaries during the reporting period. It requires the participants to report on differences (delays, work not implemented, new subcontracts, budget overruns etc.). It must be uploaded as PDF document.

Main steps for submitting the Request for Final Payment

- ✓ Information in the Continuous Reporting Module is updated (Coordinator/consortium task)
- ✓ Financial Statements for each participant are completed (beneficiary task)
- ✓ Part B of the technical Report (as a single PDF) is uploaded (Coordinator/consortium task).
- ✓ Parts A and B are ready to submit, Technical Report can be finalised by the Coordinator
- ✓ The Coordinator approves/reviews Partners' financial reports
- ✓ **Submit the report to the EC**: the Coordinator must submit all parts of the periodic report together (all the individual Financial Statements and Part B of the Technical Report). The system will automatically generate the report with explanations of the use of resources and the periodic Summary Financial Statements, which includes the request for payment.
- →EU assessment, and if the request is accepted: → Payment is processed within 90 days of receipt of the periodic report. IT completes the reporting process.



Final report – Technical Report



Attachment Actions Template

Explanation of the work - Overview of progress

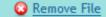
Solview File

2. Upload in PDF format.

1. Download the Templates

If corrections are necessary after upload:







Use of resources (only in the Final Reporting)

Personnel costs: persons / month per WP

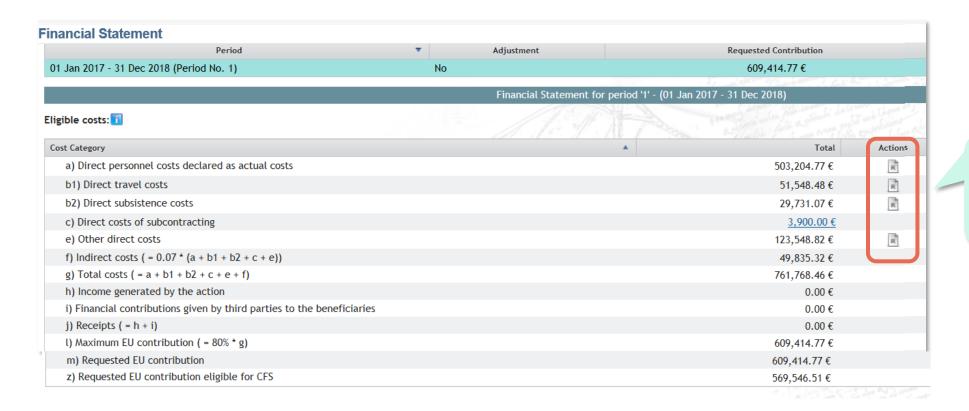
Subcontracting: details for each subcontract, name, cost, type of service

Travel costs and Subsistence costs (B1+B2) and Other direct costs (E):

- If costs are ≤ 15 % of the personnel costs you do not need to detail them
- If costs are > 15 % of the personnel costs you must detail major cost items, apart from those that add up to less than 15 % of your personnel costs
- The system calculates and displays the amount to be justified
- Major cost items → start with the most expensive cost items
- If no personnel costs, details for all costs



Financial Statement – Complete data

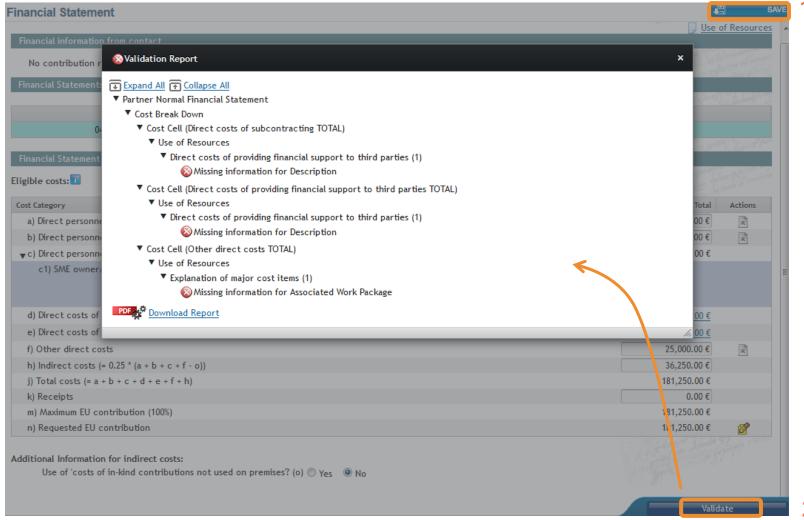


Do not forget!



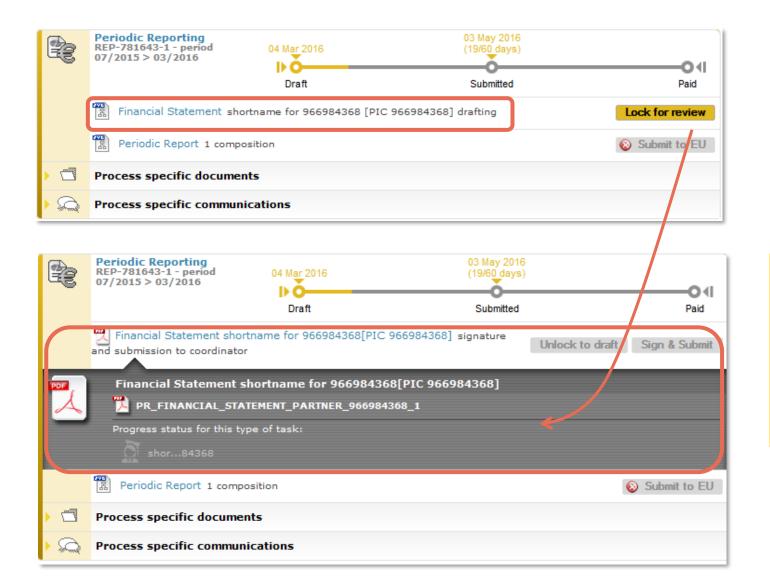
Financial Statement – Check Data

Validation report





Financial Statement – Lock for review

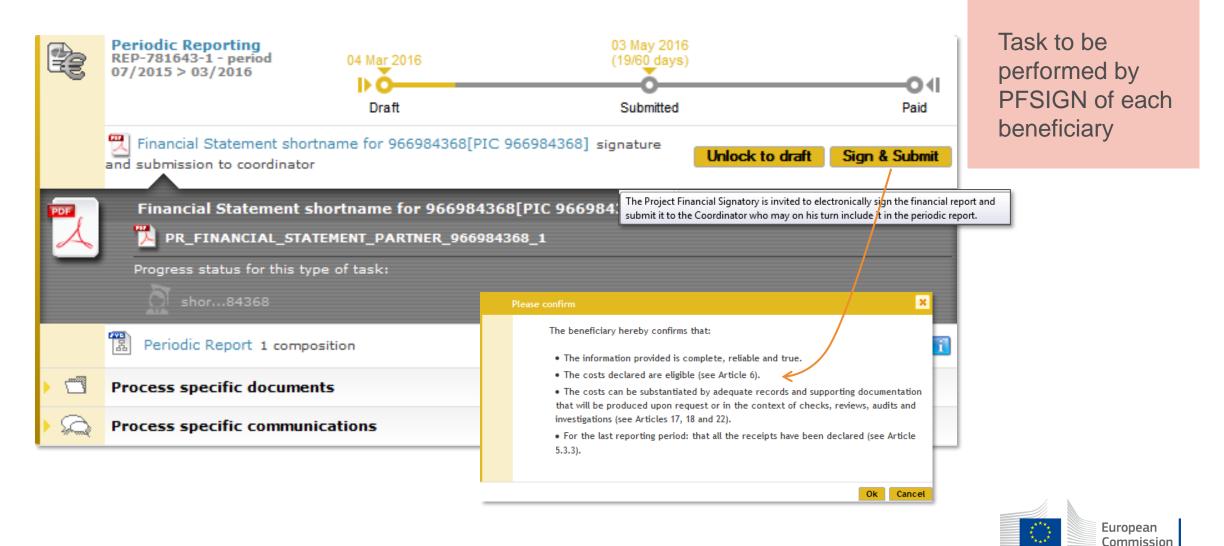


Task to be performed by each beneficiary

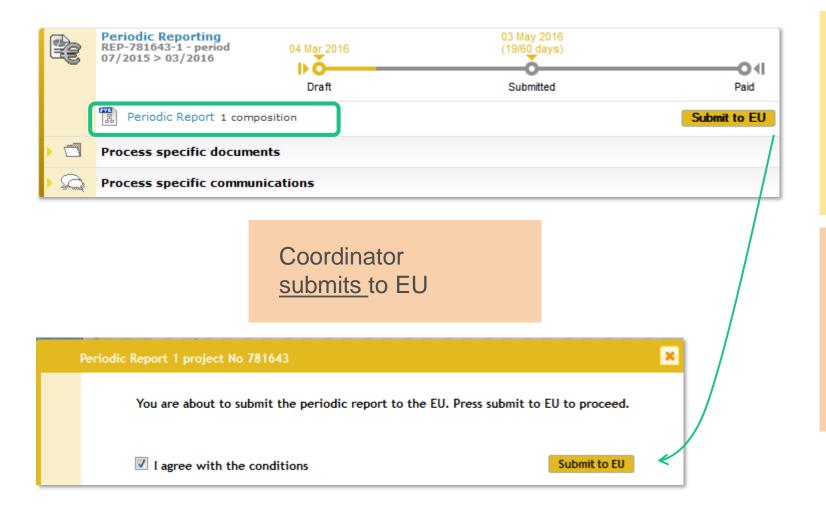
This action will freeze the data (prevent changes) and generate a PDF document.



Financial Statement – Sign & Submit



Financial Statement – Submit to EU



Once the elements of the Periodic Report are approved by the Coordinator, the Periodic Report can be submitted to the EU Services in one single submission

Only users with the role Primary Coordinator Contact or Coordinator Contact can perform this action.



Some links - Periodic Reporting – Request for Final Payment

How to complete your financial statement

How to complete your technical part of the periodic report

Reporting process — general

Grant management services system



EC tasks

- Assess final reports (technical and financial)
- Accept/re-open or reject deliverables

- May ask for additional information (payment delay stopped)
- Calculate final balance payment or recovery (part of) pre-financing



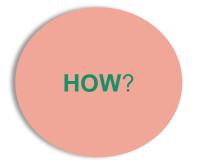
Amendments: General conditions



- Project coordinator (PLSIGN) on behalf of the Consortium
- The Commission



- 45 days before the end of the project
- The AMD should be signed by both parties before the end of the project



- In the electronic exchange system F&TP
- Sign, submit, countersign electronically



When is an amendment necessary?

Article 39.1 GA → Conditions: The Agreement may be amended, unless the <u>amendment entails changes which</u> would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants;

Withdrawal/termination, addition, replacement of a beneficiary (or COO)

Change in work packages and deliverables*

Change of bank account

Change to budget categories with lump sum (travel and subsistence)

Extension of action's duration

! The AMD should be signed before the actual end date

Additional substantial subcontracting

See also GA art 6.2 B

^{*} Any ongoing AMD provides the opportunity to check and update the dissemination level of deliverables (from PU to SEN, etc.)



When is an amendment NOT necessary?

Change of address of a beneficiary

Change in the name of the bank or in the address of the branch where the coordinator has an account

Change of VAT number

Delays of 1-3 M in submission of deliverables

Changes in the core staff mentioned in Annex 1/Part B (notify PO instead) Transfer between budget categories that not imply any substantive or important change to the description of the action in Annex 1.



Some links - Amendments

- How to launch an amendment
- How to prepare an amendment
- withdraw amendment



Thanks

