

IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING

LEAD BENEFICIARY SEMINAR 21 MARCH 2018 SUBOTICA, SERBIA





# **ABBREVIATIONS**

**JS** = Joint Secretariat of the Programme

**PM** = Programme Manager *of JS* 

**MA** = Managing Authority

**NA** = National Authorities

**JMC** = Joint Monitoring Committee

**FLC** = First Level Control

**B** = Beneficiary

**LB** = Lead Beneficiary

**BR** = Beneficiary Report – goes to FLC

**PR** = Project Report – *joint report, goes to JS* 

**RP***n* = Reporting Period - *RP1*, *RP2*...

**SC** = Subsidy Contract

Add = Addendum

**OPC** = Other Project Changes

**PIH** = Project Implementation Handbook

**PraG** = Practical Guide to contract procedures for EC external actions

**DOVE** = Declaration On Validation of Expenditures

**AfR** = Application for Reimbursement

**PR&AfR** = Progress Report including Application for

Reimbursement

**IMIS** = Integrated Monitoring and Information System



### **IMPORTANT GUIDELINES**

As any complex programme, the Interreg-IPA Hungary-Serbia programme has a number of important documents you need to get familiar with.

For applying we had:

- Guidelines for Applicants
- Eligibility Rules of Expenditures

For Implementation you will need:

- Project Implementation Handbook (PIH link: <a href="http://www.interreg-ipa-husrb.com/en/file/530/">http://www.interreg-ipa-husrb.com/en/file/530/</a>)
- First Level Control Manuals national level procedures for Beneficiary reports (Srb: <u>link</u>)
- IMIS 2014-2020 Users Manuals (Lead Beneficiary Manual, Beneficiary manual)





# LEAD BENEFICIARY PRINCIPLE

Lead Beneficiary (LB) principle is:

- ☐ LB assumes the leading role in partnership
- ☐ LB mediates the project towards the Programme Management bodies
- LB is solely responsible for the implementation and reporting to Joint Secretariat (JS)

Project Report – Joint level reporting to the JS via IMIS 2014-2020

Contact person – the one nominated person that keeps regular contact and exchange information with assigned Programme Manager from the JS.

When in doubt, ask the JS.

When the Beneficiary is in doubt, ask the LB to ask the JS.

More on LB principle and LB responsibilities in PIH





### **ELIGIBILITY OF COSTS**

- Costs of implementing a project as approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee
- Costs incurred in the Programme area (exception 20 % eligibility rule)
- Compliant with national and EU rules, in particular with regard to the provisions of the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EC external actions (PraG) with its standard documents and templates in the annexes to it
- Costs must be essential for the achievement of the project objectives/outputs;
- Costs comply with the principle of sound financial management: economy, efficiency and effectiveness
- Costs actually incurred and paid by the Beneficiaries within the eligibility period of the project
- Expenditures have to be validated by an authorised national control body (FLC)
- Not financed by other EU funds or other financial contributions from third parties





### TIME-WISE ELIGIBILITY

- Period of eligibility starts with
  - 1st January 2014 for the Beneficiaries from Hungary
  - o **6<sup>th</sup> May 2015** (date of submission of the Draft Co-operation Programme to the European Commission) for the Beneficiaries from the **Republic of Serbia**.
- The eligibility period ends with 31<sup>th</sup> December 2023 the latest expenditures have to be also paid
- Start date only after the date of submission (registration) of the Application Form
- Expenditures incurred before the submission preparation costs
- Preparation costs must be included in the budget, must be reported in the 1st
   Project Report at the latest





#### NON-ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES

- Costs related to fluctuation of foreign exchange rate
- Recoverable Value Added Tax
- Purchase, rent or leasing of real estate (except office rental for project purposes)
  - Exceptions can be made in well justified cases on a case by case basis by the JMC, e.g. for flood prevention
- Used equipment
- Benefits apart from salary (cafeteria) which do not appear on payslips





# STAFF COSTS, OFFICE AND ADMIN.COSTS

**Staff costs** of the Beneficiary can be reimbursed on the basis of:

- 2 options but cannot be changed during implementation.
- Real costs
  - o Full-time; part-time; contracted on an hourly basis...
- Flat rate
  - 20% of direct costs other than staff costs if project does not contain works activities
  - 10% of direct costs other than staff costs if project contains works activities
  - Below 100 000 EUR
  - Documentation is not required.

Office and administration costs are 15% of Staff costs, but max. 10% of total

• Reimbursed in each Project Report based on the reported staff costs.





### TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

- Travel and accommodation costs shall be limited to following elements:
  - Travel costs
  - Accommodation costs
  - Visa costs
  - Daily allowances
- The above list is exhaustive and any element listed in points a) to c) which is covered by a daily allowance shall not be reimbursed in addition to the daily allowance.
- As a general rule, no reallocation to and from this budget heading (BH4).





# **EXTERNAL EXPERTISE AND SERVICES**

#### Eligibility requirements

- Clear link to the project and must be essential for the effective implementation
- Deliverables and outputs produced by experts/service providers must respect the relevant publicity requirements
- Sub-contracting between Beneficiaries within the same project is not allowed
- Respect of **PraG**
- Adequate supporting documentation





# **EQUIPMENT**

- Expenditure for equipment shall be limited to the following elements:
  - IT hardware and software (clear project relevance is necessary)
  - Furniture and fittings
  - Laboratory equipment
  - Machines and instruments
  - Tools or devices
  - Other specific equipment needed for the project
- Respecting **PraG**;
- o **Rules of origin** only above 100 000 EUR per item
- Must be clearly linked to the project, essential for its effective implementation and described in the AF.
- Equipment for general office use must be financed in the frame of office and administration flat rate.
- Adequate supporting documentation





### **INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKS**

- Costs of feasibility studies, environmental impact assessments, architectural/engineering activities and any other expertise needed for the realisation shall be allocated under "Staff" or "External expertise and services" cost category;
- Purchase of land must not exceed the 10% of total budget of the given Beneficiary;
- All compulsory requirements set by Community and national legislation must be fulfilled;
- The land and/or buildings where the works will be carried out must be in the ownership or long term use of the Beneficiary for at least 10 years;
- Respect of **PraG**;
- The relevant publicity requirements must be respected;
- Adequate supporting documentation;





### **FUNDING AND ADVANCE PAYMENT**

**IPA funding** is maximum **85%** in each project

- The remaining 15% is financed from national sources: state and own contribution
- Serbian Beneficiaries: 15% own contribution

**Advance payment: 15%** of total IPA by project after the conclusion of Subsidy contract

- Calculated among Bs according to their share of the total IPA support in the project
- LB responsible for transferring of IPA
- Advance payment is late due to administrative issues. Expected payment for all the LBs that have a signed contract in the next 2 months.





### BENEFICIARY REPORT – FIRST LEVEL CONTROL

- Reporting period: every 4 months from the start date
- Deadline for submitting the Beneficiary Report: end of period + 15 days
- For Final Beneficiary Report: end of project + 30 days
- Control of Beneficiary Report: 45 days (does not include completion if needed)
- Reports to be submitted through IMIS 2014-2020
- Language of reporting: English
- Result: Declaration on validation of expenditure = **DOVE**





# **PROJECT REPORT - JOINT SECRETARIAT**

- LB reports on the progress of the entire project, in the name of all B to the Joint Secretariat
- Reports to be submitted via IMIS 2014-2020 in English
- Deadline for submitting the Project Report and Application for Reimbursement:
   end of reporting period + 60 days
- Check of Project Report: 30 days (does not include max 2 rounds of completion if needed)
- Transfer of IPA fund to LB only after the approval of the Project Report by the JS.





### PROJECT REPORT = PR + AFR

- The project report has the descriptive part and the financial part
- Descriptive: where you report about Achievements, Outcomes, Indicators, Publicity
- Financial: where the system collects data from DOVEs on various tables
- The end result of the financial part is Application for Reimbursement = AfR
- The progress report is split into thematic TABS similar to the Application from







#### **PROJECT REPORT - TABS**

MAIN DATA – basic data

**ACHIEVEMENTS** 

**OUTCOMES** 

**INDICATORS** 

INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

**DOCUMENTS** 

FINANCIAL DATA

FINANCIAL DATA / BENEFICIARY

FINANCIAL DATA / PR&AFR

**SOURCES OF FUNDING** 

**EU CONTRIBUTION (IPA) ADVANCE** 

TRANSFER FROM LB

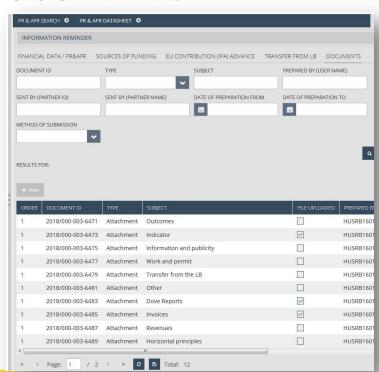




#### **PROJECT REPORT - DOCUMENTS**

#### The **DOCUMENTS** tab is important:

- For the JS to see how you support the progress of Indicators, Activities, Outcomes
- For you to keep track of your documents
- For the JS to keep track of DOVEs and AfRs
- Upload the documents into correct folders:
  - Outcomes
  - Indicators
  - Info & Publicity
  - Work and permits
  - Other...



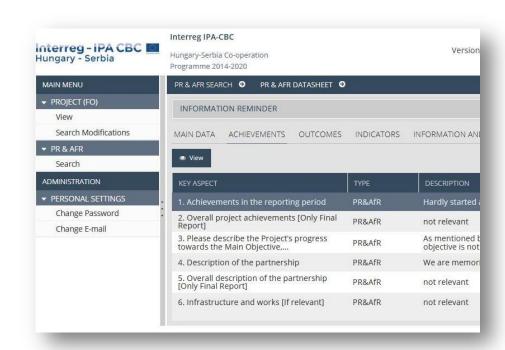




#### **PROJECT REPORT - DOCUMENTS**

#### The **ACHIEVEMENT** tab is descriptive:

- For the JS to see how you explain the:
- Achievements in the reporting period
- Progress towards Main Objective
- Description of partnership
- Infrastructure and works
- 2 questions that are only for Final Reports
  - Overall Project Achievements
  - Overall description of partnership





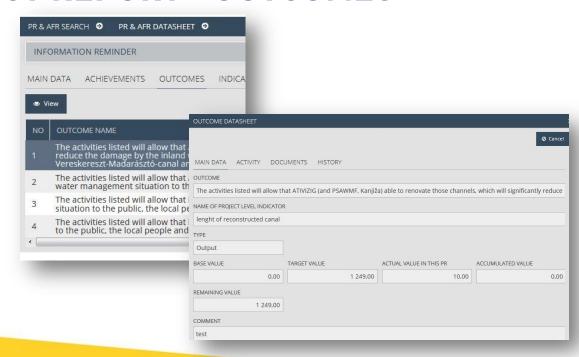
#### **PROJECT REPORT - OUTCOMES**

**OUTCOMES** tab is predominantly descriptive:

- List of Outcomes
- Outcome Datasheets where you report on:

#### Project-level Indicator progress

- enter actual value in this PR
- enter description







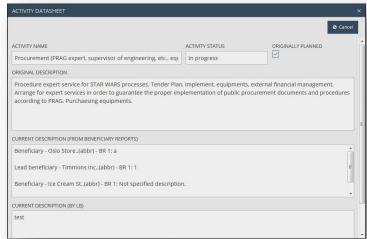
### **PROJECT REPORT - OUTCOMES**

#### **OUTCOMES** – part with Activities

Progress of Activities:



- Activities as according to application or those not planned for this RP.
- Current description: Describe as according to BR
   descriptions displayed or add more data.



Activity status can be:

Not started yet/In progress/Complete





#### **PROJECT REPORT - INDICATORS**

#### The **INDICATORS** tab:

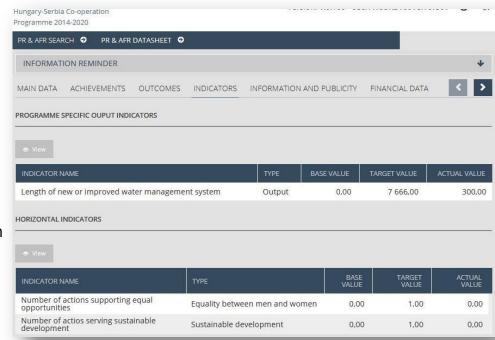
Report on the progress of

- PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUPUT INDICATORS
- HORIZONTAL INDICATORS

Update value of indicator by changing

"Actual value in this PR"

These are the indicator that are aggregated on Programme level.







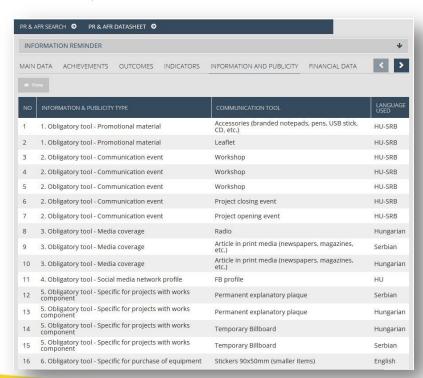
#### **PROJECT REPORT - INFO & PUBLICITY**

#### The **INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY** tab:

Report on the progress of

- Obligatory tools
- Recommended tools

Promo material, communication events, Media coverage...





# **PROJECT REPORT - FINANCIAL**

Several financial tabs that offer different breakdowns and summaries of the progress of Budget spending per budget lines. **FINANCIAL DATA** – info about DOVEs

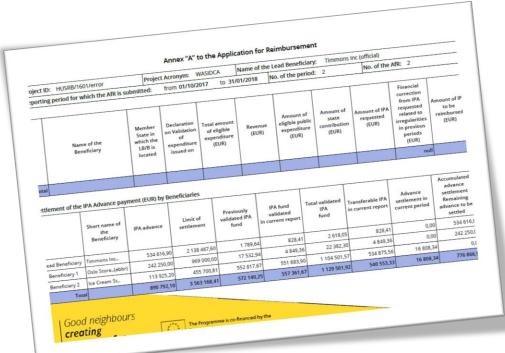
FINANCIAL DATA/BENEFICIARY - detailed

FINANCIAL DATA/PR&AFR – totals as in AfR

Basically, they are all fed with data from the DOVEs of individual BRs.

The end result is the

AfR - Application for Reimbursement.







#### PROJECT REPORT - FINANCIAL

#### Other Financial tabs of the report:

**SOURCES OF FUNDING:** offers the various totals of the entire partnership and per Beneficiary

CONTRIBUTION RATE % PLANNED AMOUNT PREVIOUSLY APPROVED CURRENTLY REPORTED ACCUMULATED ACCUMULATED % REMAINING

EU CONTRIBUTION (IPA) ADVANCE: information about settlement of the 15% IPA Advance

The advance begins to be settled from 60% of spending rate till 75% gradually

**TRANSFER FROM LB:** here update the date and amount of transferred to other Beneficiaries

PR&AFR BENEFICIARY DATE OF TRANSFER TRANSFERRED AMOUNT





#### PROJECT MODIFICATIONS

As a general rule, the number of modifications is limited to 1 per Reporting period

Two types of modifications, those that require SC modifications, and those that don't

Those that require: Addendum needed, requires approval of MA

Those that do not: Other project changes - require approval of JS

Admin changes: minor technical changes that do not require any procedure or approval

Modification is requested in a form and in all cases goes to the JS first,

The JS then determines the type - who decides on the modification.

Ask all Beneficiaries before submitting.

Keep modifications to a minimum.





### PROJECT MODIFICATIONS

#### Not allowed:

- Modifications which affect the basic purpose of the Project as approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee
- 2. Change of Lead Beneficiary (unless it is necessary by law)
- 3. Budget reallocations between Beneficiaries
- 4. Reallocation to the budget line which did not contain allocated amounts in the approved budget or to those which were decreased according to the decision of the JMC
- 5. Reallocation to the Budget Heading Nr. 1 'Preparation Costs'





#### OTHER PROJECT CHANGES - OPC

- Project team change
- Merging of project periods
- Decrease of output and result indicators (NOT exceeding 20% of the original indicators)
- Budget reallocation between budget headings (both NOT exceeding 20% of the original amount of the affected budget headings and NOT exceeding 10 000 EUR - reallocations cumulative)
- Budget reallocations between budget lines of one budget heading (for example: 4.5 -> 4.8, or 5.2->5.1).
- Budget description.
- **Changes in activities** that are not considered as substantial changes (e.g. minor activity description change, etc.). However, shifting activities between reporting periods is not considered as an OPC, it is enough if the LB reports about it in the next Project Report.
- Other (e.g. change of legal representative, change of separate project bank account, etc.)





# **SC CHANGES - ADDENDUM**

- Change of the Beneficiaries requires the approval of the MA or JMC
- Substantial changes in the overall project objectives
- Changes of activities (either introducing new activities or replacing old ones);
- Decrease of value of output and result indicators (both Programme- and Project-Level indicators decrease larger than 20% of the original value of the indicator in question)
- Budget reallocation between budget headings which BOTH cumulatively exceeds 20% of the original amount of the affected budget heading and is at least 10 000 EUR (also calculated cumulatively) within the budget of the particular Beneficiary;
- Prolongation of the project duration.

The PM of JS may decide to put any modification to MA for decision if she/he deems necessary



# Thank you for your attention!

# Interreg-IPA CBC Hungary-Serbia Joint Secretariat

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