

Erasmus+ Capacity Building projects in the field of Higher Education Call 2018

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE GRANT

Grant Holders' Meeting Brussels, 28-29 January 2019



REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

EACEA Documents







Application



Your documents



National legislation & Institutional regulation

Any prior authorisation from EACEA



OUTLINE

- 1) Financing principles
- 2) Actual costs
- 3) Unit costs
- 4) Management of the Grant and amendments
- 5) Financial reporting
- 6) Final grant
- 7) Checks & Audits

NB: Please note that this document has no legal value



BUDGET MODEL

(ANNEX III OF GRANT AGREEMENT)

BUDGET HEADINGS	EUR
I STAFF COSTS	340.000
II TRAVEL COSTS	150.000
III EQUIPMENT	150.000
IV COSTS OF STAY	160.000
V SUBCONTRACTING	50.000
VI EXCEPTIONAL COSTS	0.00
TOTAL GRANT (total I-VI)	850.000



1) FINANCING PRINCIPLES

- √ Funding rule & Financing approach
- ✓ Budget headings and ceilings
- √ Eligible / Ineligible costs



FUNDING RULE & FINANCING APPROACH

Co-funding principle

Grant ≠ **Total costs** of the project

Grant

(combination of two different financing approaches)

- AC: Actual costs (Equipment, Subcontracting and Exceptional costs)
- UC: Unit Costs (Staff, Travel and Costs of stay)



BUDGET HEADINGS AND CEILINGS

Staff costs (UC)	Max 40% of grant (Art I.3 of GA)
Travel costs (UC)	no ceiling
Costs of stay (UC)	no ceiling
Equipment (AC)	Max 30% of grant (Art I.3 of GA)
Sub-contracting (AC)	Max 10% of grant (Art I.3 of GA)
Exceptional (travel) costs (AC)	no ceiling



ELIGIBLE COSTS

Article II.19.1 Grant Agreement

- Incurred by the beneficiaries during the eligibility period
- Foreseen in the application/budget
- In connection with action/necessary for project implementation
- Identifiable, verifiable, recorded in the accounting records
- Comply with requirements of tax/national legislation
- Reasonable, complying with sound financial management (economy and efficiency)



INELIGIBLE COSTS

- 1) Costs NOT fulfilling requirements of Art. II.19.1
- 2) Art. I.10.4/II.19.4 examples:
 - ✓ equipment such as: furniture, motor vehicles, alarm systems
 - √ costs linked to the purchase of real estate
 - √ activities not in project beneficiaries' countries (Annex IV), unless prior authorisation
 - **✓ Exchange losses**
 - √ in kind contribution
 - √ excessive expenditure
 - √ deductible VAT



AFFILIATED ENTITIES OF A BENEFICIARY

- → Organisations that have a legal or capital link with a beneficiary and that contribute to the achievement of project objectives and activities under the responsibility of the beneficiary concerned.
- → Must be identified in the Grant Agreement in order to have their costs reported under the project budget

Example: Organisation X, with headquarters in Madrid, is part of a network of 20 institutions. Staff members from one of the network institutions may work for the project and claim eligible costs as long as this institution is included as an affiliated entity in the G.A.





WHEN DECLARING CO-FINANCING AT FINAL REPORT STAGE, IS THERE A MINIMUM AMOUNT/PERCENTAGE TO DECLARE?

- a. No
- b. Yes, an amount representing minimum 10% of the costs declared
- c. Yes, an amount representing minimum 10% of the costs declared, but only for unit costs



MY UNIVERSITY COOPERATION AND RESEARCH GRANTS ARE MANAGED THROUGH ITS OWN FOUNDATION. CAN THE COSTS DECLARED BY THE FOUNDATION BE CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE?

- a. No, because the Foundation is not a Beneficiary.
- b. Yes, because the Foundation acts on behalf of my university which is a Beneficiary.
- c. Only if the Foundation is included in the grant Agreement as Beneficiary or as Affiliated entity of a Beneficiary.



2) ACTUAL COSTS

- > Definition
- > VAT
- > Exchange rate
- > Tendering procedure
- > Equipment
- > Subcontracting
- > Exceptional (travel) costs
 (described under the "unit costs" section)



ACTUAL COSTS - DEFINITION

Expenses actually incurred

(Documented and justified with corresponding level of cost)

Example:

Reported cost (laptops) of 1.500 EUR

Supporting documents to the value of 1.500 EUR



VAT (ART. II.19.4 GA)

Ineligible

Unless

official document from **competent authorities** proving that the corresponding costs <u>cannot be recovered</u>

Check with NEO/EU Delegation if an <u>agreement</u> exists between EU and Partner Country







EXCHANGE RATE (ART. I.10.2 GA)

Which exchange rate should be applied?

- 1) From start of eligibility period until receipt of second pre-financing: monthly rate of reception of FIRST PRE-FINANCING
- 2) From date of receipt of second pre-financing until end of eligibility period: monthly rate of reception of SECOND PRE-FINANCING

Rate to apply:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/inforeuro/index_en.cfm

EXAMPLE

1st Pre-financing: 23 Dec 2018 – 2nd Pre-financing: 22 Aug 2019

Invoice date: 09 January 2019 Applicable monthly rate: December 2018



PROCUREMENT OF GOODS/SERVICES

Less than 25.000 €

Best value for money

25.000 € - 134.000 €

• Tendering procedure

More than 134.000 €

National Legislation











EQUIPMENT

Relevant to the objectives of the project and foreseen in the application

- Total purchase cost (no depreciation)
- Exclusively for Partner Country Higher Education Institutions
- Recorded in the **inventory** of the institution
- Labelled with **E+ stickers** (to be printed by beneficiaries)

 https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/about-eacea/visual-identity-and-logos-eacea/erasmus-visual-identity-and-logos_en
- Purchased and installed as soon as possible in order to be used during project implementation



Equipment **not foreseen** in the application? (Serious) **Delays** in the purchase/instalment?



Prior authorisation From the Agency !



SUBCONTRACTING

Implementation of specific tasks, by third party, to which a contract is awarded by one/several beneficiaries

Examples:

- Evaluation activities/auditing
- IT courses, Language courses
- Printing, publishing and dissemination activities
- Translation services
- Web design and maintenance

Not foreseen in the application? Prior authorisation from Agency





Tasks that cannot be performed by Beneficiaries NO project-management related tasks



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Equipment

- Invoice(s) and proofs of payment
- > EUR 25.000 < EUR 134.000: tendering procedure and three quotations from different suppliers
- EUR 134.000: procedure according to national legislation
- Registration in the inventory

Subcontracting

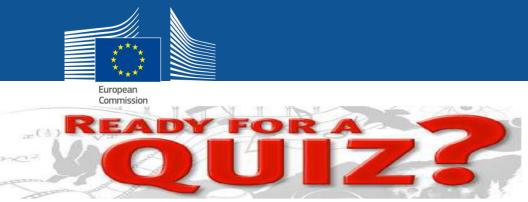
- Invoice(s), subcontracts and proofs of payment
- > EUR 25.000 < EUR 134.000: tendering procedure and three quotations from different suppliers
- EUR 134.000: procedure according to national legislation
- Travel activities of subcontracted service provider: copies of travel tickets, boarding passes, invoices and receipts

To send with Final Financial statement:

>EUR 25.000: invoices, (subcontracts for subcontracting), competitive offers
Any prior authorisation from the Agency







1) Do I have to Launch a tendering procedure for a contract value of 23,000 EUR?

- a. No, even if my institution requires to do it
- b. Yes, but the Agency should be informed
- c. No, unless my institution and/or the national legislation requires to do it

2) CAN A PARTNER PURCHASE EQUIPMENT FOR ANOTHER ELIGIBLE PARTNER?

- a. Yes, only if the project partner is a private HEI
- b. No, unless this was specified in the application
- c. Yes, if the cost effectiveness can be demonstrated and the equipment is delivered and recorded in the inventory of the partner country HEI.



3) WHICH SUPPORTING DOCUMENT DO I NEED TO KEEP TO JUSTIFY THAT AN INSTITUTION CANNOT RECOVER VAT?

- a. A declaration signed by the legal representative of the institution
- b. An official document from the competent authorities
- c. A certificate from the financial department of the institution





3) UNIT COSTS

- > Definition
- > Staff costs
- > Travel costs and costs of stay



UNIT COST - DEFINITION

<u>Fixed contribution</u> multiplied by number of units, based on "Triggering events" (activities/outputs)

No need to justify level of spending



Financial control/audit declared unit costs supported with proofs of activities implemented







Grant management cycle	UNIT COST	ACTUAL COSTS	
Grant allocation	Based on <u>estimated</u> work programme	Based on the estimated budget	
Grant Implementation	Beneficiary's own FINANCIAL "RECIPE"	Record <u>costs</u> actually incurred	
Justification of the Grant	Based on <u>activities</u> <u>actually implemented</u>	Based on <u>costs</u> <u>actually incurred</u>	





1) If we have estimated 20 working days in the application for producing the QA STRATEGY, WHICH IS THE <u>WRONG</u> STATEMENT?

- a. We will be granted 20 days at the final report stage if we can produce the expected supporting documents and a QA strategy
- b. We can declare a different nr. days in the final report
- c. The actual nr. of days granted will be decided on the basis of the actual outputs (QA strategy) and other supporting docs. and will never be more than the nr. of days declared



2) THE ACTUAL COSTS FOR TRAVEL "X" ARE 30% HIGHER THAN THE VALUE OF THE UC

- a. The EACEA should be informed so as to authorise a higher grant contribution
- b. You can increase the UC value by 30% and justify it in your final report
- c. You have to balance this loss with savings made under other activities funded by UC and/or with co-funding provided by the partnership



Contribution to Institutions for Staff* performing tasks necessary to achieve the objectives of the project

Unit cost = amount in Euro per working day per staff (not linked to the actual
level of remuneration in the salary slip)

Calculation \Longrightarrow 3 variables: staff category, country, number of days

- **a) Categories:** Managers, Researchers/Teachers/Trainers, Technical, Administrative nature of work performed, not status of individual
- **b) Country** in which staff is employed, independently of where tasks are executed
- c) Number of days proportioned to the work carried out

^{*}Formal contractual relationship with a beneficiary organisation



STAFF COSTS Example

A staff employed in Lithuania performing teaching activity for 3 days:

→ 222 Euro (3 unit costs of 74 Euro each)

One working day according to national legislation (7 to 8 hours)

In principle max. 20 days/month or 240 days/year



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

To keep with project accounts:

Staff Costs

- Joint Declaration (EACEA template)
- Time-sheets (EACEA template)
- Proof of formal contractual relationship
- Evidence justifying workload and activities/outputs (e.g. attendance lists , tangible outputs / products)

To send with Final Financial statement:

Any prior authorisation from the Agency



TRAVEL COSTS AND COSTS OF STAY

Travel/stay for staff/students participating in eligible activities related to the achievement of the project

Calculation: 3 variables travel distance (travel costs), duration (costs of stay) and type of participant

Staff

- Under contract with beneficiary
- Travels intended for the activities listed in the E+ Programme Guide
- Duration: Max. 3 months

Students

- Registered under beneficiary institutions
- Duration: Min. 2 weeks Max. 3 months (Max. 1 week for short term activities linked to the management of the project)



TRAVEL COSTS: RULES



From home institution to venue of activity (project beneficiaries' countries) and return

Travel distance calculator (one-way travel):

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/tools/distance_en.htm

Calculation unit cost corresponding to applicable distance band

7 distance bands (see Erasmus+ Programme Guide - CBHE section)



TRAVEL COSTS: RULES EXAMPLES

CASE 1

Participant from Madrid (ES) takes part in activity in Rome (IT)

Madrid - Rome (1365 Km): unit cost (distance band 500/1999 Km): 275 €

CASE 2

Participant from Madrid takes part in activities first in Rome and then in Kiev (circular travel)*

Madrid - Rome (1365 Km): unit cost (distance band 500/1999 Km): 275 €

Rome – Kiev (1680 Km): unit cost (distance band 500/1999 Km): 275 €

= 550€



EXCEPTIONAL COSTS

(financed under actual costs)

EXPENSIVE TRAVEL COSTS OF PARTICIPANTS

If for a specific travel, the UC contribution represents less than 65% of the actual/real travel costs, financial support under the budget heading "exceptional costs" can be claimed. This financial support is limited to a maximum of 80% of the actual/real costs

Example:

13-17 Feb 2019 Almaty (Kz) – Plovdiv (BG) Distance in km (distance calculator) 4.197

Cost of flight: 1.321€

Unit cost: 820€ (less than 65% of actual cost of flight, which is 858,65€) Exceptional cost (replacing unit cost) → 1.056,80€ (= 80% of the actual cost of flight)

As all other budget headings, "Exceptional costs" can be increased without amendment by up to 10% as compared to the amount mentioned in the G.A. Any other circumstances (including where no Exceptional costs have been foreseen) will require an amendment



TRAVEL COSTS IN THE "UNIT COSTS" SYSTEM

4 meetings, 25 participants each, destination 2500 km =360 €

	EACEA Unit costs	Real costs	Methodology applied within consortium	Balance (UC-RC)
Travel 1	360	210	?	
Travel 2	360	420	?	
Travel 3	360	700	?	
•••		•••	***	
Travel 100	360	290	?	
scenario 1 TOTAL	36.000	37.000		-1.000
scenario 2 TOTAL	36.000	35.000		+1.000







Staff/students activities outside city of their home institution

Calculation:

number of days of activities (including travel) = Number of unit costs



Unit costs for **staff** unit costs for **students**

Staff	120 €	70 €	50 €	
DAYS	Up to 14th day	15th - 60th	61st - 3 months	
	Up to 14 th day	15th - 90th		
Students	55 €	40 €		



COST OF STAY: SPECIFIC RULES EXAMPLES

A staff (Paris): activity in Brussels during 2 days (inc. travel)

Max. 2 unit costs of 120 € (TOTAL: 240 €)

A staff (Paris): activity in Brussels during 20 days (inc. travel)

Max. 14 unit costs of 120 € + 6 unit costs of 70 € (TOTAL: 2.100 €)

A student (Paris): activity in Berlin during 22 days (inc. travel)

Max. 14 unit costs of 55 € + 8 unit costs of 40 € (TOTAL: 1.090 €)



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Travel and Costs of Stay

- Individual Travel Report (EACEA templates) + Supporting documents
- (e.g. travel tickets, boarding passes, invoices, receipts, proof of attendance in meetings, agendas, tangible outputs/products, minutes)*

*Non-exhaustive list

Exceptional costs

Proof of the actual cost of the travel

To send with Final Financial statement:

Any prior authorisation from the Agency





1) CAN A STUDENT RECEIVE STAFF COSTS? WHICH IS THE WRONG ANSWER?

- a. No, never
- b. Yes, provided that his/her contribution is in line with the scope of the project and necessary for its achievement
- c. Yes, provided that the student signs an ad hoc agreement with the HEI against payment

2) A TECHNICAL STAFF HAS A USUAL REMUNERATION OF 60 EUR PER DAY. THE CORRESPONDING DAILY UNIT COST IS 55 EUR. HOW MUCH SHOULD THIS PERSON ACTUALLY RECEIVE UNDER THE PROJECT?

- a. 60 EUR
- b. any amount higher or equal to 55 EUR
- c. it is up to the project to decide



3) If I TRAVEL FROM A TO B, AND FROM B TO C, AND BACK TO A, WHAT CAN I CHARGE TO THE PROJECT:

- a. UC for distance band from A to B + UC for distance band from B to C
- b. UC for distance band from A to B + UC for distance band from B to C + UC for distance band from C to A
- c. UC for the sum of the distances from A to B + B to C

4) I TRAVEL TO BERLIN FROM FEB 5TH TO FEB 9TH AND I PARTICIPATE IN A 2 DAYS MEETING (6 AND 7). ON THE 8TH I TAKE ONE DAY OFF:

- a. I can charge a maximum of 2 days as costs of stay
- b. I can charge a maximum of 4 days as costs of stay
- c. I can charge a maximum of 5 days as costs of stay



- 4) MANAGEMENT OF THE GRANT AND AMENDMENTS
- 5) FINANCIAL REPORTING
- 6) CALCULATION OF THE FINAL GRANT
- 7) CHECKS & AUDITS(ART. II.27)



4) MANAGEMENT OF THE GRANT AND AMENDMENTS

Grant paid on the bank account of the coordinator (Art I.5 of GA)

Methods for distributing the grant/reimbursing the costs between coordinator and partners **Detailed in Partnership Agreement**:

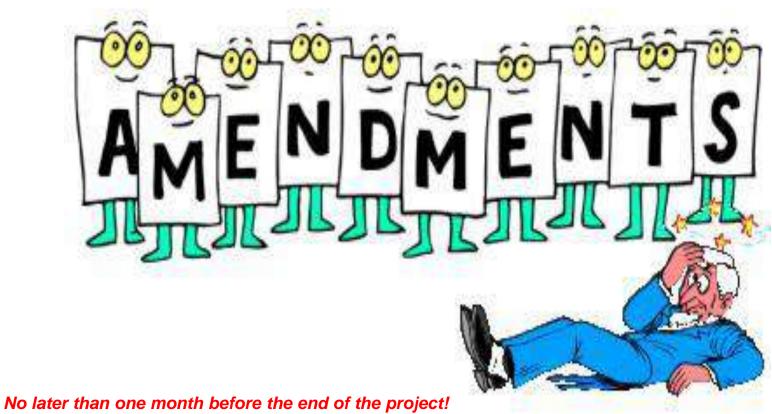
- a) decision on **HOW** to reimburse costs (in particular UC)
- b) decision on **WHERE** to pay (/to whom)
- c) decision on WHEN to pay

No ideal / unique / imposed method >>> specific situation of each partner should be taken into account

Transfers amongst project beneficiaries >>> only to institutional bank accounts



Art. II.12 of Grant Agreement





Request change of

- legal status of the coordinator and/or beneficiaries
- legal name of the coordinator and/or beneficiaries
- · address of the coordinator
- address of a beneficiary (not the coordinator)
- contact person of the coordinator
- · deadline for submission of reports
- · coordinating institution
- · eligibility period
- budget breakdown
- partnership composition
- legal representative of the coordinator
- bank account of the coordinator
- · the work programme

Done through......

Participant Portal

E-mail

Scanned letter



Before Asking for an Amendment

Principle: the application is the baseline for project implementation

Estimate the impact of the proposed change on the project:

- Compare this change/deviation with the initial work plan
- Make sure it stays within the scope of the project and complies with the programme's rules
- Who does it affect one partner/the whole partnership?
- Does it have an effect on the project budget?
- Does it have an effect on the project timeframe?
- Any risk that the project will not deliver the planned outputs?
- Reflect on alternative solutions (fall-back plan)



BUDGET TRANSFERS

(between budget headings)

Increase UP to 10%

- No prior authorization
- Even above the ceilings (for staff, equipment and subcontracting)

Increase by MORE than 10%

- Amendment
- Ceilings cannot be exceeded

Staff costs	% of total grant in G.A.	Proposed increase	Effect on % of total grant	Decision
Max ceiling:	30%	+20%	36%	Amendment possible
40%	35%	+20%	42%	Not allowed



BUDGET TRANSFERSExample 1 = NO need for amendment

	EUR	%	Budget transfer	% of budget heading	result	% of total grant
I STAFF COSTS	340.000	40%	+27.200	+8% of 340.000	367.200	43,2%
II TRAVEL COSTS	150.000	17,6%	-27.200		122.800	14,4%
III COSTS OF STAY	150.000	17,6%			150.000	17,6%
IV EQUIPMENT	160.000	18,8%			160.000	18,8%
V SUBCONTRACTING	50.000	5,9%			50.000	5,9%
VI EXCEPTIONAL COSTS	0.00	0,0%			0.00	0,0%
TOTAL GRANT (total I-V)	850.000				850.000	



BUDGET TRANSFERS

Example 2 – amendment

	EUR	%	Budget transfer	% of budget heading	result	% of total grant
I STAFF COSTS	340.000	40%			340.000	40%
II TRAVEL COSTS	150.000	17,6%			150.000	17,6%
III COSTS OF STAY	150.000	17,6%	-10.000		140.000	16,5%
IV EQUIPMENT	160.000	18,8%			160.000	18,8%
V SUBCONTRACTING	50.000	5,9%	+10.000	+20% of budget heading	60.000	7,1%
VI EXCEPTIONAL COSTS	0.00	0,00%			0,00	0,0%
TOTAL GRANT (total I-V)	850.000				850.000	





CAN I INCREASE THE STAFF COSTS FOR A PROJECT PARTNER BY 15% WITHOUT REQUESTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE GA (IF THIS IS JUSTIFIED BY THE PROJECT ACTIVITIES)?

- a. Yes, as far as the budget heading "staff costs" at project level does not increase by > 10% (and that the partnership agrees)
- b. No, never
- c. Yes, only if the staff costs of the partner do not exceed 40% of the total budget of the partner



5) FINANCIAL MONITORING AND REPORTING

Financial statements (Excel) main financial reporting tool:

- Financial monitoring per budget heading/partner/WP <u>during project</u> <u>implementation</u> (for budget consumption)
- Statement on the use of the previous pre-financing for PR and request for second pre-financing
- Financial reporting at final report stage, supported by Audit Certificate (Report of Factual Findings on the Final Financial Report Type II)

Financial Statements (".xls" format) available at: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/beneficiaries-space en



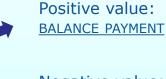
6) CALCULATION OF THE FINAL GRANT

Grant will never exceed maximum amount indicated in Grant Agreement

FINAL GRANT

- 1) Examination of: a. financial statements
 - b. eligibility of activities implemented
 - c. eligibility of declared expenses
- 2) Examination of potential penalties applied on maximum Grant
- 3) <u>FINAL GRANT = LOWEST VALUE</u> between maximum Grant reduced by penalty(ies) and result of examination 1

FINAL GRANT MINUS PRE-FINANCINGS



Negative value: RECOVERY



ommission

Ă

• Max. Grant (Anx III of GA): 850,000 €

HOW WILL THE FINAL GRANT AMOUNT BE DETERMINED?

B

• **Declared grant** spent (in FR): 700,000 €

Č

 Eligible grant (after EACEA grant/activities analysis): 650,000 €



Penalties?

(for poor performance or non-respect of visibility obligations)

FINAL GRANT

Eligible grant = 650,000 €

NO

Max grant reduced by penalty = 637,500 €



YES for "Poor performance" (Minus 25% of Max Grant = 637,500 €)

Eligible grant = 650,000 €

YES for "Visibility obligations" (Minus 20% of Max Grant = 680,000 €)



examples (1 of 2)

		Total declared expenditu	Total declared expenditure			
	Max Grant awarded	CASE 1 = max. grant awarded	CASE 2 < max. grant awarded UNDERSPENT	CASE 3 > max. grant awarded OVERSPENT		
I STAFF COSTS	340.000	340.000	290.000	330.000		
II TRAVEL COSTS	150.000	150.000	150.000	150.000		
III COSTS OF STAY	150.000	150.000	150.000	160.000		
IV EQUIPMENT	160.000	160.000	160.000	170.000		
V SUBCONTRACTING	50.000	50.000	40.000	50.000		
VI EXCEPTIONAL COSTS	0	0	0	0		
TOTAL GRANT (total I-V)	850.000					
TOTAL DECLARED		850.000	790.000	860.000		
FINAL GRANT		850.000	790.000	850.000		



examples (2 of 2)

			CASE 4		CASE 5		
			Total declared expenditure		Total declared expenditure		
	Grant awarded	% TOTAL GRANT	< total grant awarded	% TOTAL GRANT AWARDED	= total grant awarded	% INCREASE	
I STAFF COSTS	340.000	40%	374.000	44%	340.000		
II TRAVEL COSTS	150.000	17,6%	150.000		202.000	34%	
III COSTS OF STAY	150.000	17,6%	100.000		130.000		
IV EQUIPMENT	160.000	18,8%	160.000		150.000		
V SUBCONTRACTING	50.000	5,9%	0		28.000		
VI EXCEPTIONAL COSTS	0	0,0%	0		0		
TOTAL GRANT	850.000						
TOTAL DECLARED			784.000		850.000	(- 37.000 €)	
						(202.000-165.000)	
FINAL GRANT			784.000		813.000	Ineligible	



7) CHECKS & AUDITS (ART. II.27)

- ➤ EACEA/Commission may carry out **technical/financial checks and audits** in relation to the use of the grant
- > **During implementation** of Agreement and for a period of **5 years** starting from the date of payment of the balance/recovery order
- Usually outsourced to external auditors
- > At premises of coordinator and/or partners



FINAL MESSAGES

- > Transparency/Partnership Agreement
- Regular monitoring/reporting
- ➤ Minimum 60% of Unit costs → a lot of flexibility → consider the specific needs/means of your partners
- ➤ In case of doubts...ASK!



QUESTION NOT ANSWERED?Please contact the E+CBHE team

<u>EACEA-EPLUS-CBHE-</u> <u>PROJECTS@ec.europa.eu</u>

Don't forget to mention your project number!

