

# InterFIN

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**13-14 May 2025**  
Kraków | Poland





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## Outline

Are you interested in discussing a variety of finance-related topics all in one place? Would you like to help shape the agenda of our upcoming event by suggesting and leading discussions on the topics most relevant to your programme? Do you want the opportunity to network and collaborate with fellow finance managers from Interreg programmes during an exclusive two-day event?

If so, join us at InterFIN - a dedicated, in-person, two-day event. During the first day we plan to hold several thematic sessions ranging from financial flows, decommitment, embracing most relevant questions from monitoring, SCOs and management verifications, plus IT & AI financial supporting tools.

You will find the full list of topics in the agenda below. As there is a limit for each session, you will have to indicate your preferences when you register. The sessions will not be repeated.

During the second day, a highly interactive plenary session organized in Open space technology format will take place<sup>1</sup>. We would like you to help us to connect the dots between financial topics, bring forward topics we haven't thought of so far, propose new angles on what we discuss on day one. This will also help us to focus our further work this year on topics that are relevant for you now.

Still not decided? If you would like to hear more about InterFIN, please join a short introductory webinar on March 11, 10:00 – 11:30 CET, where we will share with you additional information on InterFIN.

## Objectives

At the InterFIN event the participants will:

- Discuss in depth some of the most relevant Interreg finance topics at this point in time,
- Exchange on practical experiences among peers on finance-related topics in Interreg,
- Have the opportunity to discuss the most relevant finance topics in your programme.

We expect that the discussions at the event will reveal new/additional discussion points which can be covered at online events in the second part of the year.

## Who is this event for?

The target group of the event is experienced finance managers/ officers working for MAs/JSs in Interreg programmes. We estimate around 120 participants will attend, with a 2 persons per programme limit.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on Open space technology method please have a look [HERE](#)



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**Day One**      **Tuesday, 13 May 2025**

**08:30**      **Registration and welcome coffee**

**9:30 – 11:00**      **Morning sessions<sup>2</sup> 3 topics/3 separate rooms:**

*(Interact, Interreg Programmes)*

- a. Connecting the dots in Programme finances: so far so good?
- b. Is it really that simple? – exchanges on implementation practices of GBER Articles 20&20a
- c. Risk-based and simplified: new approaches to Management Verifications

**11:00– 11:30**      **Coffee break**

**11:30 – 13:00**      **Morning sessions continuation:**

*(Interact, Interreg Programmes)*

- a. Connecting the dots in Programme finances: so far so good?
- b. Is it really that simple? – exchanges on implementation practices of GBER Articles 20&20a
- c. Risk-based and simplified: new approaches to Management Verifications

**13:00 – 14:00**      **Lunch break**

**14:00-15:30**      **Afternoon sessions 3 topics/3 separate rooms:**

*(Interact, Interreg Programmes)*

- a. SCOs Interreg kitchen
- b. Beyond Excel: How new tools are transforming Financial Management
- c. Irregularities

**15:30 – 16:00**      **Coffee break**

**16:00 – 17:30**      **Afternoon sessions continuation:**

*(Interact, Interreg Programmes)*

- a. SCOs Interreg kitchen
- b. Beyond Excel: How new tools are transforming Financial Management
- c. Irregularities

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<sup>2</sup> Please note that duration of morning and afternoon sessions is 3 hours (separated by a coffee break). Sessions will not be repeated.



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<b>Day Two</b>	<b>Wednesday, 14 May 2025</b>
<b>9:00 – 9:30</b>	<b>Welcome coffee</b>
<b>9:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>Open space session (part one) (plenary)</b> (Interact, Interreg Programmes)
<b>11:00– 11:30</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>11:30 – 13:00</b>	<b>Open space session (part two) (plenary)</b> (Interact, Interreg Programmes)
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
<b>14:00-15:30</b>	<b>Open space session (part three) (plenary)</b> (Interact, Interreg Programmes)
<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>16:00 – 17:00</b>	<b>Take aways, wrap up and closure of the event</b> <b>End of the meeting!</b> (Interact, Interreg Programmes)



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### Outlines of the sessions:

#### **Connecting the dots in Programme finances: so far so good?**

This session focuses on how the programmes are working with decommitment, financial flows and technical assistance (TA) in the 2021-2027 programming period. These are closely interconnected topics, so we will approach them from various angles. We will explain briefly how to calculate decommitment targets - especially in the case of programme modifications - troubleshoot decommitment and dive into the financial flows from programme to projects. Obviously, we will discuss the impact of all of these on TA. We invite the participants to bring cases, as well as other interlinked topics, to the table.

This session offers an opportunity to analyse the big picture, as well as zoom into the details and gather experience from Interreg programmes for a deeper understanding.

#### **Is it really that simple? – exchanges on implementation practices of GBER Articles 20&20a**

With the amendments that were made to Article 20, as well as adding Article 20a to General Block Exemption Regulation and increasing the de minimis threshold, the inclusion of State Aid activities in projects was made simple. But is it really so? In this session we will discuss how programmes are dealing with State Aid in projects and look especially at problematic cases and their solutions.

The objective is to exchange experience and look for details that we could focus on in the forthcoming GBER discussions. We will also discuss the stage of implementation of national de minimis registers. Participants will be asked to prepare one/two problematic cases of projects with State Aid where GBER was applied.

#### **Risk-based and simplified: new approaches to Management Verifications**

With the shift towards risk-based approaches and the broader use of Simplified Cost Options (SCOs), management verifications in Interreg Programmes are undergoing significant transformation in the current programming period. Programmes have gained initial experience in applying risk-based management verification methodologies, and have introduced new approaches, such as conducting management verifications for selected SCOs directly at Programme level, and adjusting reporting requirements in terms of frequency and scope. These efforts aim to enhance both the efficiency and effectiveness of management verifications.

This session offers an opportunity to explore good practice examples from various programmes, exchange experiences on different approaches to management verifications, and collectively shape the path forward for the Interreg community.



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## **SCOs Interreg kitchen**

Just as in any other kitchen, this is a place when one can have a deeper look into the process. There is order on shelves and in cupboards, but there might be some work-in-progress on working tables. During the session we would like to focus on various current implementation issues. Experiences with updating programmes methodologies, sources of verifications of SCOs, underperformance of projects and SCOs - what goes by the book, and what requires some extra effort, just to name a few. With most SCOs up and running and many projects in the implementation phase, we would also like to continue our exchanges on time-saving aspects of SCOs. Have you already experiencing that? What are your reflections? Of course, there will be dedicated time to discuss your specific questions.

## **Beyond Excel: How new tools are transforming Financial Management**

In recent funding periods, Interreg Programmes have embraced digital tools and electronic communication, transforming programme- and project management from paper-based to fully digital processes. This shift has enabled more effective data analysis, reporting and evaluation, with emerging technologies like AI offering new opportunities for further innovation.

This session will explore how digital tools and AI can enhance the efficiency and effectiveness in Interreg programme financial management. Discover practical examples from peers, share your experiences and discuss challenges in adopting new technologies. Together, we'll identify opportunities and gaps in using new technologies that can be taken up for further exchanges within the Interreg community. This session is a chance to network, learn and help drive the digital transformation of Interreg financial management.

## **Irregularities**

Irregularities are slowly but gradually popping up. In this session we will discuss real-life cases of irregularities (no matter if they were included or not in the payment applications) and suspected fraud. We will focus on the procedure of dealing with these and on the financial corrections that had to be applied.

Participants will be asked to prepare examples of one/two irregularities of any type (ideally the ones with financial impact) identified by any programme body (controller, MA/BAF, AA) or any external body. We will discuss their nature and how they were solved (reported in IMS, recovery from LP, withdrawal/deduction in the accounts).