

IPA Finance Meeting



18-19 November 2025

Podgorica | Montenegro





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Outline

Interact is pleased to announce the second edition of the IPA Finance Meeting, which will take place in Podgorica, Montenegro from 18 to 19 November 2025.

Building on the success of last year's first meeting, this year's event will again provide a dedicated platform for practitioners involved in the financial management of Interreg IPA programmes - namely financial officers from Managing Authorities and Joint Secretariats, representatives of national authorities, as well as controllers and audit authorities (primarily from non-member states) involved in Interreg IPA programmes.

Over one and a half intensive days, the meeting will feature interactive sessions led by Interact experts and experienced practitioners from various Interreg IPA programmes. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss recent developments in financial management, share experiences and lessons learned, and engage in problem-solving activities. The focus will be on practical aspects of financial management, including SCOs, risk-based management verifications, irregularities, and State Aid.

By bringing together practitioners from different programmes and countries, the IPA Finance Meeting aims to create a collaborative learning environment where knowledge is shared, challenges are addressed collectively and innovative approaches are explored.

Objectives

The event aims to facilitate the exchange of best practices and practical experiences in financial management. It will address everyday challenges faced by financial managers and provide space to explore collaborative solutions. In addition, the event seeks to enhance participants' skills through interactive sessions and workshops. Beyond technical learning, the event will also contribute to strengthening cross-programme cooperation and community building within the IPA finance network.



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Day One

Tuesday, 18 November 2025

09.00 – 09.30

Registration

09.30 – 09.45

Introduction and welcome

Interact programme

09.45 – 11.00

Financial Management Updates and Post-2027 Outlook

Interact programme

This session will provide an overview of the latest developments in Interreg financial management, including an outlook to changes related to the post-2027 programming period.

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee/Tea break

11.30 – 13.00

SCOs & Risk Based Management Verifications

Interact programme and Participants

The objective of this session is to provide an interactive, hands-on session where participants explore the practical use of SCOs and risk-based management verifications.

13.00 – 14.00

Lunch break

14.00 – 14.30

SCOs & Risk Based Management Verifications (continued)

Interact programme and Participants

14.30 – 15.30

Audit & Irregularities

Interact programme

This session tackles the audit processes, common Interreg sample and the identification and handling of irregularities.

15.30 – 16.00

Coffee/Tea break

16.00 – 17.00

AI in Finance Management

Interact programme

The objective of this session is to explore how AI tools and technologies can support financial management and its impact in the daily work.



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Day Two

Wednesday, 19 November 2025

9.15 – 09.30

Reconnection

9.30 – 10.30

State Aid

Interact programme

This session will provide an overview of State aid rules and schemes available for Interreg Programmes.

10.30 – 10.45

Coffee/Tea break

10.45 – 11.30

Public Procurement Challenges and Practical Solutions

Interact programme

In this session participants will explore the common challenges related to public procurement and work together to identify practical solutions.

11.30 – 12.00

Open Questions, Closure, and Next Steps

Interact programme