Welcome to the

IPA Finance Meeting

Alexandra Kulmer, Przemyslaw Kniaziuk, Jasmina Lukic/ 18-19.11.2025

Interact

Co-funded by
the European Union
Interreg

Agenda/
day one

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Introduction and welcome

02

Financial Management Updates and Post-2027 Outlook

03

SCOs
&
Risk-based Management Verifications

04

AI in Finance Management

05

Public Procurement Challenges and Practical Solutions

Agenda/ day two

01

Reconnection

02

Audit & Irregularities

03

State Aid

04

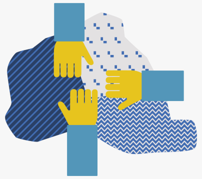
Open Questions, Closure and Next Steps

Meeting objectives

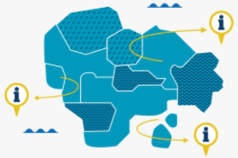
- To hear news, updates and reminders on financial management topics
- To share experiences
- To learn from each other, discuss and exchange
- To have a good time

Registration statistics

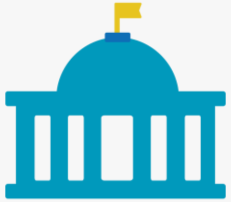
30 participants



14 Interreg Programmes



11 Countries



7 MA
7 JS
8 NA/NCP
6 Controllers
2 Others

Working agreements

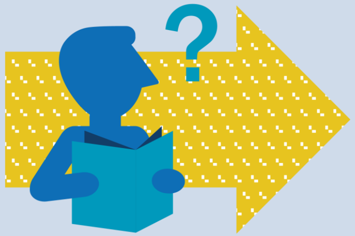
Be active!

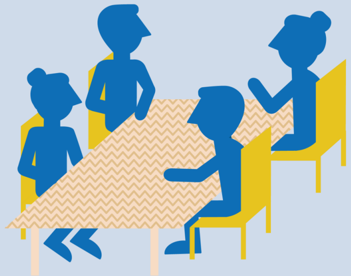
Ask questions

Contribute and share

(all ideas are welcome)

Be open





Be patient with your peers

Have a good time ☺

Warm Up

Financial Management Updates and Post27 Outlook

What has happened since Tirana...

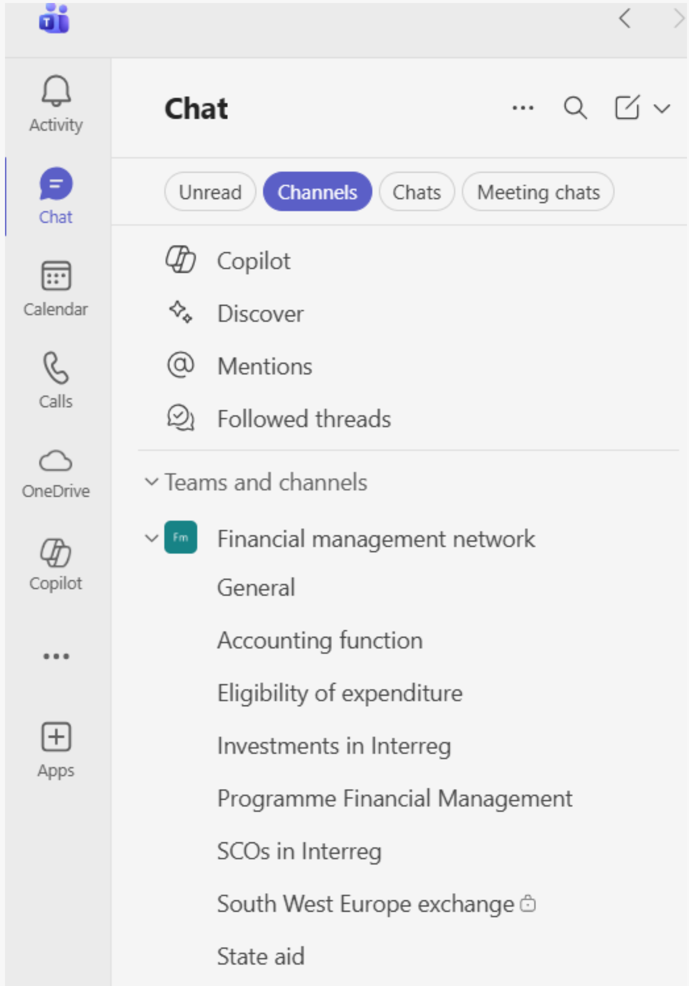
Interact events

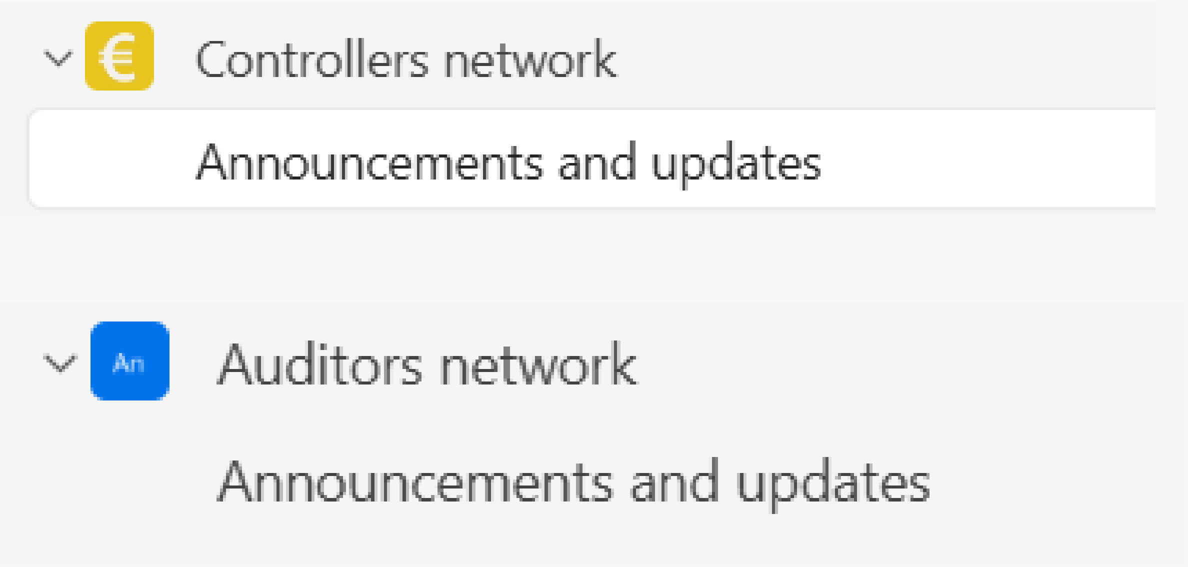
- InterFIN – May 2025
- Controllers workshop – June 2025
- Workshop on irregularities, fraud and conflict of interest – June 2025
- Audit Authorities and Group of Auditors network meeting – June 2025
- SCOs in Action – October 2025
- Interreg Knowledge Fair – November 2025

Other interesting events: Fraud prevention actions for Interreg IPA Programmes

What has happened since Tirana…

Interact tools/new communities





Post27:
What's published (draft) & what's still to come

- **MFF** Regulation
- **NRP** Regulation (equivalent of 21-27 CPR)
- **ERDF – Cohesion Fund** Regulation (equivalent of 21-27 ERDF – Cohesion Fund Regulation
- **Performance** framework and budget tracking regulation
- **Global Europe**

NEW

- Commission Implementing Act(s) – the **Interreg Plan** (not published yet)

Interreg Plan

General Part

Interreg Regulation including identification of geographic areas and allocation breakdown for each chapter (Article 9(1) ERDF)

+

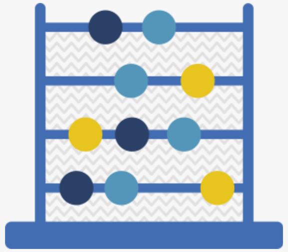
Second Part

Summary chapters
One chapter = Programme

Finance Structure & Rules

Total funding	✓ EUR 10 264 billion in current prices (Article 10(2)(c) NRP)
Allocation methodology proposed	✓ Identical to the 21-27 methodology (Annex 3 NRP)
Technical assistance	✓ Flat rate: 8% Interreg; 10% OMR & cooperation on external borders (Article 13(2) NRP):

Finance Structure & Rules



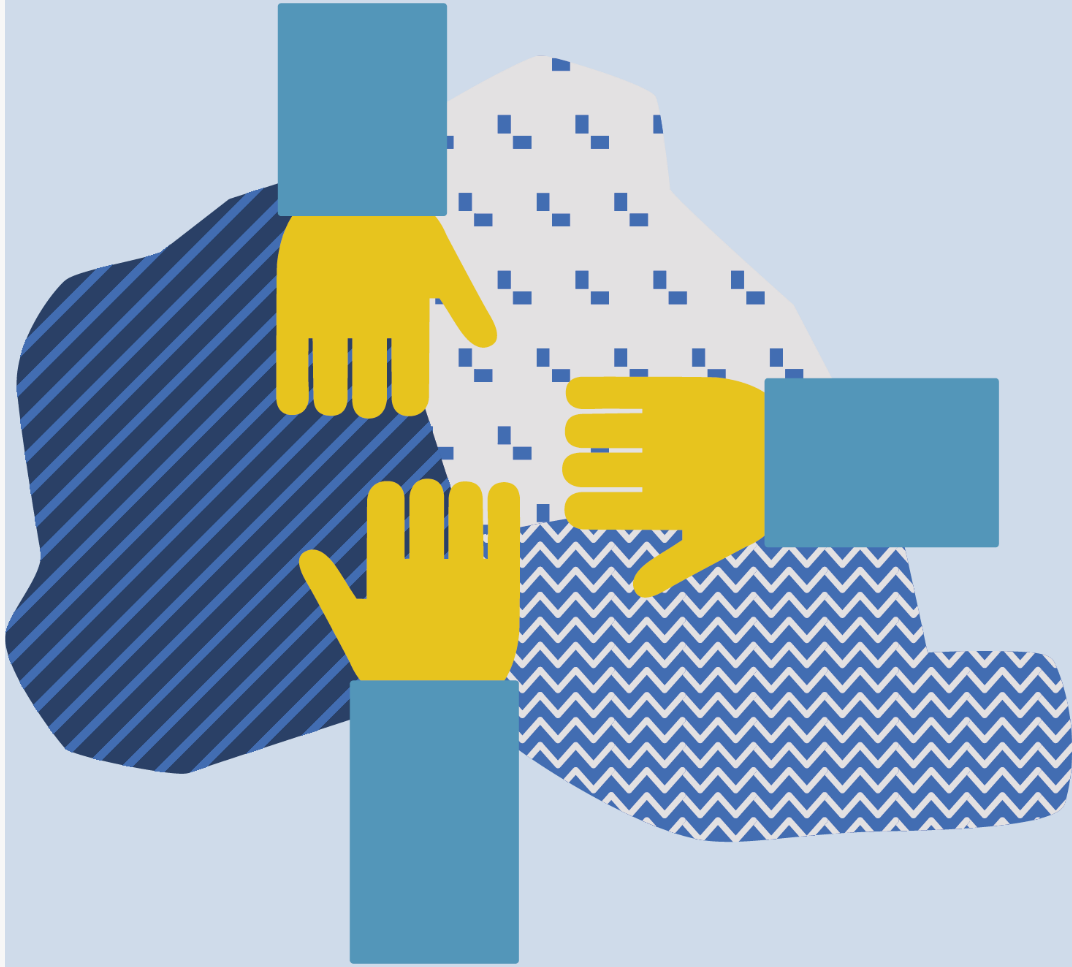
Co-financing	✓ 80 % Interreg; 85 % OMR and cooperation on external borders (Article 20(3) NRP)
Pre-financing	✓ 4% per year for the first three years [Article 17(2) NRP]. All pre-financing to be cleared at closure [Article 17(3) NRP] (currently 14% over 6 years) ✓ specific pre-financing rules for chapters including Global Europe fuding can be established in the Interreg Plan (to provide continuity)
Automatic decommitment	• Reduction in timing to n+1 to accelerate the spending (Article 15(1) NRP)

Design & Roles

- **Interreg 4 strands** (Article 7(1) ERDF)
- **Partnership requirements** (Article 6 NRP)
- Expectations that current programmes will continue in the next period

Design & Roles

- Managing Authority, Joint Secretariat and Audit Authority for each chapter (Article 10(1) and (4) ERDF)
- Group of Auditors per chapter (Article 10(5) ERDF)
- No separate accounting function
- Monitoring Committee per chapter
- National Authorities not mentioned (but should be included in the Interreg Plan)



General & Interreg specific objectives

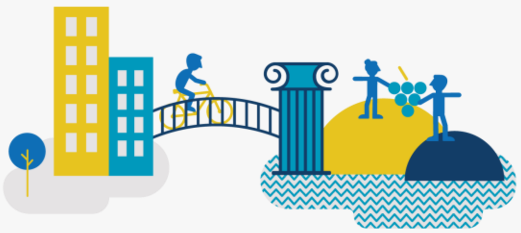
- 5 General Objectives (Article 2 NRP)
- Specific Objectives under the NRP + 3 Interreg-specific objectives under the ERDF:
  - ✓ Better cooperation governance
  - ✓ A safer and more secure Europe
  - ✓ More resilient regions bordering Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine
- No thematic concentration – programmes can choose what they want to focus on

Performance based approach (PBA)

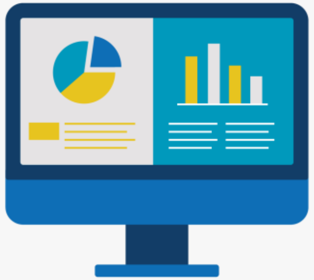
- Relationship with Commission based on performance
- In the chapter – a list and description of measures, alongside milestones and targets (Article 8(3)(c) ERDF)
- Total estimated costs of measures to be set out (Article 8(3)(d) ERDF)

Reform & investment

- the combination of reforms and investments will be a key element for the national plans
- reform dimension important for Interreg – contributing to reforms through Interreg projects



Monitoring and reporting



- The Commission will monitor the progress of implementation of the programmes and activities financed by the budget
- To assess the progress towards achieving the set objectives, using performance indicators
- SFC2028
- Single Gateway (single portal tool for all funds)
- Monitoring systems required (Article 51(h), Article 58(k) NRP)
- Monitoring commitee – examins the progress in implementation of measures

Management verifications

- MA responsible to carry out to ensure the fulfillment of the milestones and targets (not expenditure)

The MA is not expected to verify the underlying costs of the operations

- Risk-based and proportionate to the risks identified ex ante and in writing
- Administrative and on-the-spot
- Before submission of the annual assurance package

Audit

Audit Authority responsible to carry out:

- ✓ audits on the fulfillment of milestones and targets (not expenditure) and
- ✓ system audits

The audit authority is not expected to verify the underlying costs of the operations for the purpose of its audit work

Irregularities

- ✓ ‘Irregularity’ means any breach of applicable law, which has, or would have, the effect of prejudicing the budget of the Union by receiving unjustified reimbursement based on milestones, targets and outputs to that budget (Article 4(35) NRP)

Management and financial rules

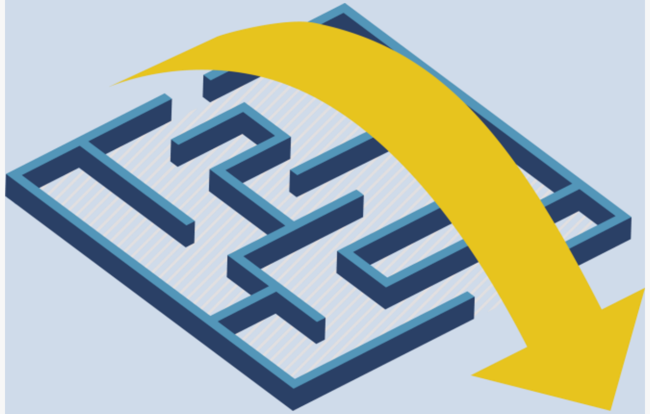
Articles 58 to 70 NRP

- measures to protect financial interest of the Union and compliance with the applicable law (Article 58)
- submission of the annual assurance package – by 15 February of each year following 2028 (Article 59)
- responsibilities of the Commission (Article 60)
- single audit approach (Article 61)

Management and financial rules

Articles 58 to 70 NRP

- responsibilities of the COM and the MS regarding the data collection and recording (Article 63) and transparency (Article 64)
- submission and assessment of payment applications (Article 65)
- time limits and interuptions of the payments' deadline (Article 66)
- suspension of payments (Article 67)
- financial corrections by the COM (Article 68)
- durability and reversal (Article 69)



Simplified cost options

Publications and updates

EU Publications

Guidelines on the use of SCOs within the CPR Funds in 2021-2027

Study on the uptake of SCO and FNLC for the CPR Funds in the 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 programming periods

Interact Publications

Verification of SCOs

Matrix of Costs

Eligibility Factsheets

SCOs in Interreg (in Teams)

Financial management network

- General
- Accounting function
- Eligibility of expenditure
- Investments in Interreg
- Programme Financial Management
- SCOs in Interreg

Grzegorz Golda | Interact Friday 14:15 Edited

Welcome - intro, useful tips and tricks

Welcome to the **Interreg SCOs Channel!** This place is a forum for all of us to connect, share ideas, brainstorm, and work our best together to ensure the uptake of SCOs in Interreg programmes.

This channel is organised in:

- **POSTS** - this is the place for discussions/ exchange of ideas/ advice/ questions/ news. Discussions are organised and named around specific SCOs topics (e.g., Flat rate 40%, Adjustment of SCOs methodologies, SCOs for events, Verification of SCOs , etc.). If your question/ comment/ news falls under the existing topic, **please post it as a reply in a relevant thread,** within the same window. BTW we kept the most recent threads from the previous SCOs community as pdf files and attached them as files at the beginning of each thread. A special post with an overview of available and currently implemented SCOs in Interreg programmes is available here too. If your topic is not covered by existing threads - **create a new post in channel,** by clicking the button at the bottom of this page. Don't hesitate to ask - this is how we all learn!
  HERE you will find a file with links to all threads in this section.
- **FILES** - documents are organised in folders. Here you will find files related to the specific SCOs we work on, as well as material/ presentations from our events on SCOs (similar as in posts section we saved the most recent files and folders from the old community).

If you have some specific questions/ requests, send us an email at **sco@interact.eu**
Your SCOs team
see less

Verification of SCOs – reminders

Official Journal of the European Union

EN
C series

C/2024/7467

20.12.2024

COMMISSION NOTICE

Guidelines on the use of simplified cost options within the Funds covered by Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (Common Provisions Regulation)

(C/2024/7467)

Verification of SCOs – reminders

Interact Co-funded by the European Union Interreg

Verification of simplified cost options (SCOs)

March 2025, v.2[1]

Practical implications of SCOs on control and audit work

Contents

Project changes & SCOs - reminders

Unit costs

Framed by programme rules on project implementation (flexibility, what requires formal change...)

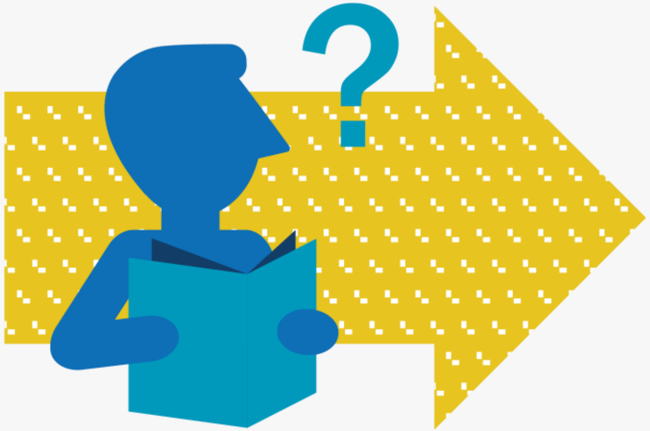
Flat rates

Fixed percentage - no changes during project implementation!

Lump sums

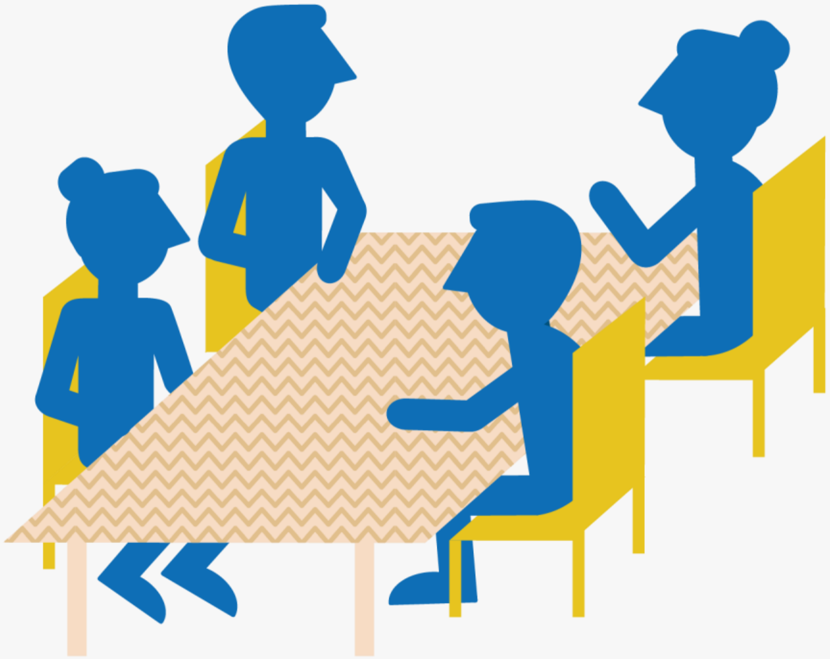
Limited scope – changes to project output not possible; budget changes not possible.

Useful resources



SCOs in action	October 2025
InterFIN	May 2025

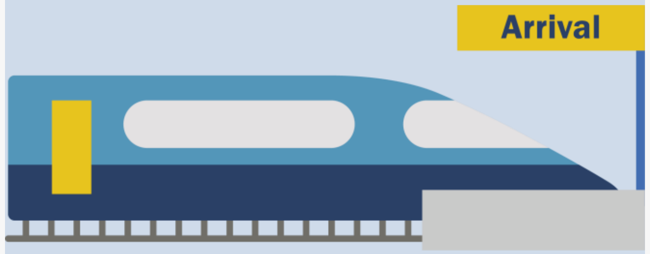
Group work



Public Procurement Challenges and Practical Solutions

Experience sharing

Kana Tomasevic
Head of FLC division,
Montenegro



Open questions
Closure
Next Steps

Events Ahead

10 December 2025

CBC Finance Network Meeting

15 December 2025

Risk-based Management Verifications in Interreg

Interact **Academy** what’s there (certified courses)

Interact Academy what's coming up (certified trainings)

Registration opens January 23, 2026

Interreg Management Verifications

Online certified training

02 Mar 2026 - 30 Mar 2026

View Training

Registration opens February 4, 2026

Simplified Cost Options: Practioners - Cohort 3

In-person certified training: **Zagreb, Croatia** 14,15/Apr/2026

04 Feb 2026 - 15 Apr 2026

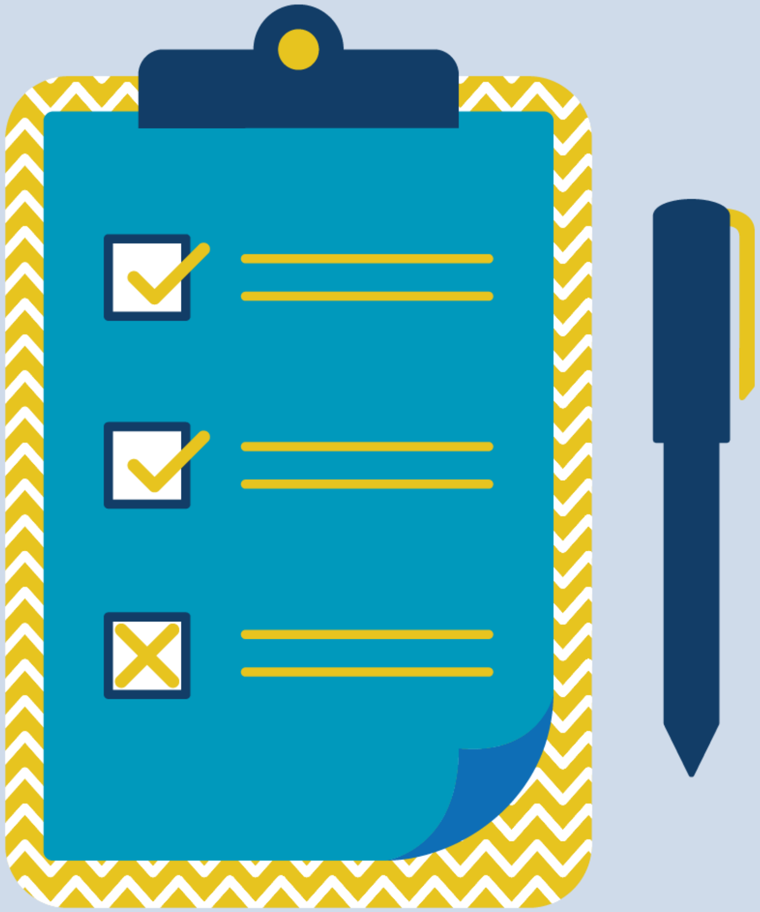
View Training

Thank you for being here!

Your opinion matters to us.

Please take a few minutes to provide us with feedback to help us improve our services.

IPA Finance Meeting



Cooperation works

All materials will be available on:
Interact.eu/Library

Want to discuss it? Join our MS Teams environment!
Portal.Interact.eu | Programme and Project Management

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