

Management verifications in Interreg



19-20 March 2026

Thessaloniki, Greece

Holiday Inn Thessaloniki by IHG





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Outlines

Interact is organising this recurring technical meeting in cooperation with colleagues from the Managing Authority of the INTERREG 2021–2027 programme, Unit C “Management Verifications,” based in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Workshop Purpose

The workshop aims to review, discuss, and further refine the methodology for risk-based management verifications developed by the Managing Authority and applied across the programmes. Participants will have the opportunity to examine proposed updates to the methodology, explore the rationale behind potential changes, and address challenges encountered in its practical implementation.

Focus of Discussions

The event will provide a platform for in-depth exchanges on key topics, including:

- challenges linked to the current methodology and areas identified for improvement,
- the underlying reasons for proposed adjustments,
- aspects related to both administrative and on-the-spot verifications,
- issues arising during the controls and audits.

Reflection on Previous and Current Periods

Participants will also review selected cases from the 2014–2020 and 2021–2027 periods, focusing on the methodology for risk-based verifications and using correctly the methodology in the MIS, administrative and on-the-spot verifications, findings from the control and audit. The aim is to identify lessons learned and highlight situations where risks, irregularities and fraud, or financial corrections could have been prevented.

Who is this meeting for?

The target group is the staff of the different authorities of the Interreg programmes: **Managing Authorities, National Authorities, Audit Authorities, Joint Secretariats and Controllers.**

Kindly note that participation in this meeting is by invitation only.

How to register?

Please access the following [link](#) using your login credentials for the Interact platform.

About the network

Established in 2018 with its first in-person meeting in Thessaloniki, Greece, the network brings together the following Interreg programmes:



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- **Interreg VI-A Greece – Bulgaria, Interreg VI-A Greece – Italy, and Interreg VI-A Greece – Cyprus**
- **INTERREG IPA Greece – Albania and Interreg VI-A IPA Greece – North Macedonia**

The network operates as a collaborative problem-solving platform, designed to facilitate the exchange of information, experiences, and good practices related to management verifications. It also supports mutual learning through the sharing of lessons learned and by strengthening the transfer of essential knowledge to controllers, forming a core component of its “**train-the-trainer**” approach.



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Day One
Current
local time in
Greece –

Thursday, 19 March 2026

8:30

Registration and welcome coffee with Interact and Managing Authority

9:00 – 09:15

Welcome and introduction

9:15 – 10:15

- Reflection on the application of the risk-based approach/methodologies
Exploration of additional tools and practices
(Ioana MANTOG, DAC, European Commission)

9:15 – 10:15

- State of play of the 2021–2027 programming period (Unit C)
 - Presentation of statistical data related to management verifications across the programmes that had verified expenses - Overview of key figures (number of verifications, amounts verified, ineligible expenditure, etc.)

10:15 – 11:15

- Implementation of the common risk-based methodology (Unit C,)
 - Presentation of key elements and critical aspects of the methodology
 - Practical examples of incorrect or inconsistent application of the methodology by the controllers
 - Link with Day 2 training activities aimed at strengthening national authorities' capacity to support controllers in using correctly the methodology in the MIS

Coffee break

11:15 – 11:30

11:30 – 12:30

- Interactive feedback session (and/or presentations – indicatively Cyprus and Bulgaria) with participants on methodology implementation in administrative verifications, including:
 - Issues related to risk factors and sampling percentages per expenditure category
 - Cases of unnecessary sample extension and strategies to avoid over-control
 - Ensuring consistent treatment of similar cases
 - Identification of national red flags, such as:
 - Year-end delays and implementation bottlenecks
 - Misinterpretation of programme rules by beneficiaries



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- 12:30 – 13:30**
- Proposed corrective actions and improvement measures
 - Presentation by Interact colleague on methodology implementation (online or onsite) regarding another Programme/es.
 - First experiences in applying and updating (three times) RBMV in Interreg programmes managed by Poland (TBC)
- 13:30 – 14:30** *Lunch break*
- 14:30 – 15:30**
- Eligibility of expenditure (Interact session)
 - Presentation of key topics from the matrix of costs, including for example: Equipment depreciation, Public procurement issues, Simplified Cost Options (SCOs), VAT eligibility, Communication-related expenditure eligibility, eligibility of promotional items and gifts
 - Open discussion aimed at ensuring a common interpretation and approach across participating countries
- 15:30 – 16:30**
- Major critical issues identified during the 2014–2020 programming period
 - Presentations by Audit Authorities (indicatively Greece and Italy)
- 16:30 – 17:00**
- Questions and answers
- 17:00** *End of the first day!*

Day two
Current
local time in
Greece –

Friday, 20 March 2026

- 8:30** *Registration and welcome coffee with Interact and Managing Authority*
- 9:00 – 9:15** *Reconnection and recap of the first day*
- 9:15 – 10:15**
- Practical demonstration in MIS (Unit C') – Administrative verifications



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- Step-by-step example based on errors and challenges identified during Day 1
- Discussion and clarification session

10:15 – 10:45

Coffee break

10:45 – 12:00

- Practical demonstration in MIS (Unit C') – Planning of on-the-spot verifications
 - Step-by-step example on planning and documentation
 - Discussion and clarification session

12:00 – 13:30

- Closing session – Follow-up actions and actions at national level
 - Planning next steps for each participating country, including:
 - Development and/or update of MIS guidance documents
 - Organisation of national-level training sessions for controllers and national authorities using practical examples
 - Identification of new elements related to management verifications

13:30 – 14:30

Lunch break

14:30 – 15:00

Wrap-up and next steps

15:00

End of the meeting!



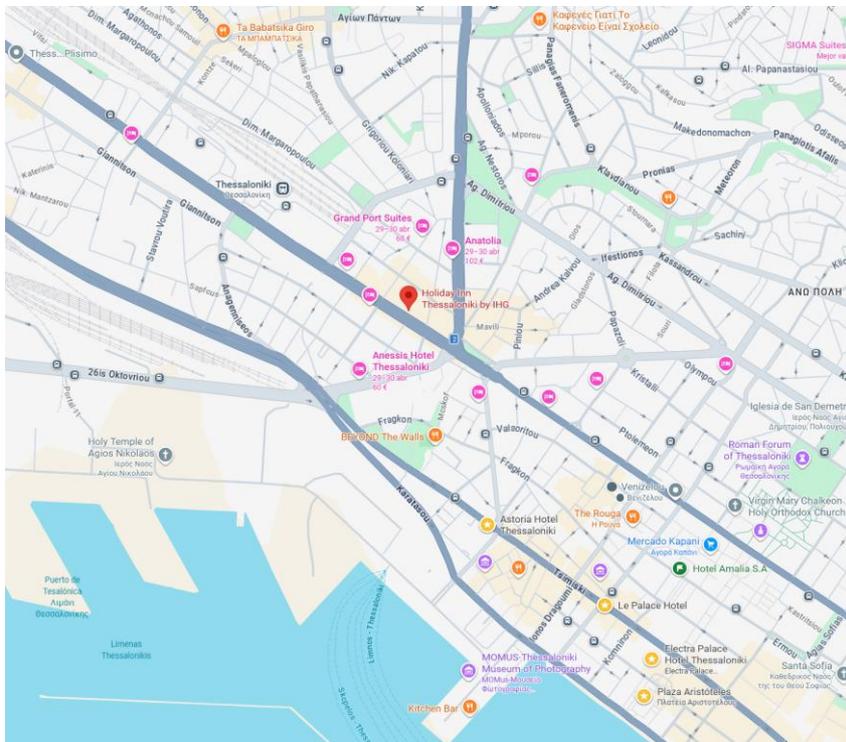
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Practicalities

The event will be held in English. Participation in the event is free of charge. However, registration is required.

Venue

The workshop will take place at **Holiday Inn Thessaloniki by IHG**
Monastiriu 8, Thessaloniki 546 29, Grecia



Travel and accommodation

Participants are responsible for their travel arrangements.

Other information

For further questions, please contact:

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We look forward to meeting you in Thessaloniki!