Interact

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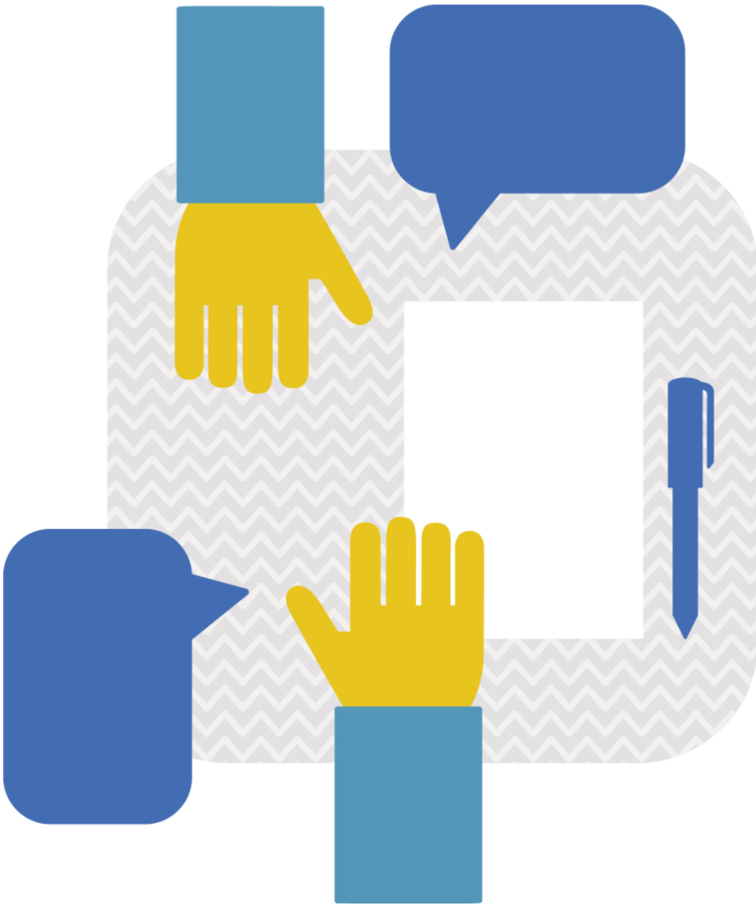
# 3rd IPA Finance Meeting

**24 – 25 November 2026**

**Vienna | Austria**

DRAFT Agenda





## Outline

Interact is excited to announce the IPA Finance Meeting for Interreg IPA programme practitioners, which will take place in Vienna from 24 to 25 November 2026.

Building on the success of two previous editions, 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.

A key focus will be the outlook to the 2028-2034 programming period. For Interreg IPA programmes this means two big changes at once – a new set-up for cohesion funding with a performance focus and a new instrument for pre-accession support. The meeting offers an early, practical look at what both could mean for financial management.

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 facilitates the exchange of practical experience in the financial management of Interreg IPA programmes. It addresses the everyday challenges financial managers face and offers a space to work through concrete solutions together, while building participants' skills through interactive, hands-on sessions. The emphasis throughout is on practice rather than theory, empowering participants to manage their responsibilities effectively.

**IPA Finance Meeting**
**24 – 25 November 2026**
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## Day One — Tuesday, 24 November 2026

**08:30 – 09.00** Registration

**09.00 – 09.15** **Introduction and welcome**

**09.15 – 10.45** **Management Verifications in Interreg IPA programmes: comparing risk-based approaches**
*Interact and Interreg IPA programmes*
Risk-based management verifications are now standard practice, with various methodologies across programmes. This session explores how programmes carry out control with particular attention to where member-state and non-member-state setups still differ, and what each side can learn from the other.

**10.45 – 11.15** Coffee/Tea break

**11.15 – 12.30** **Eligibility of expenditure and SCOs**
*Interact and Interreg IPA programmes*
Eligibility remains one of the most persistent day-to-day challenges in financial management, and simplified cost options are one of the tools to make it easier. This session takes stock of the eligibility questions in Interreg IPA programmes, and what SCOs are actually delivering in practice.

**12.30 – 13.30** Lunch break

**13.30 – 15.00** **Improving financial performance together**
*Interact and Interreg IPA programmes*
Good financial performance means spending on time without creating problems later. Eligibility rules, simplified cost options and management verifications all affect it in different ways. In this interactive workshop, participants will look at the performance of their own programmes and best practices to improve it.

**15:00 – 15:30** Coffee/Tea break

**15.30 – 16.30** **2028- 2034 – new rules for Interreg**
*Interact*
The 2028–2034 MFF proposals reshape cohesion delivery with a shift to a performance framework. For Interreg IPA programmes there is a second change as pre-accession support moves into the new Global Europe instrument. This session maps the emerging framework and what it could mean in practice for financial management.



## Day Two — Wednesday, 25 November 2026

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| **09.30 – 11.00** | **Roles and responsibilities in 2028-2034 Interreg IPA programmes**<br>*Interact and Interreg IPA programmes*<br>Building on the previous day, this interactive workshop turns from the rules to the bodies behind them - managing authorities, joint secretariats, national authorities, and the control and audit function. Together, we will explore how the new legislative framework will impact roles of Interreg programme bodies, how responsibilities may shift and how programme bodies across borders can ensure programme performance and organise for sound financial management from the start of the new period. |
| **11.00 – 11.30** | Coffee/Tea break |
| **11.30 – 12.30** | **Roles and responsibilities in 2028-2034 Interreg IPA programmes (continued)** |
| **12.30 – 13.00** | **Wrap-up, Next steps and Closure of the event** |