

## RBMV:

# Simplification or simplification?

Interreg Knowledge Fair session report | March 2024

### Overview

During the session, participants engaged in two main activities: a panel discussion featuring programme representatives who shared their expertise and experience regarding Risk-based Management Verifications (RBMV) and a collaborative group work session to identify strategies for further simplification of RBMV processes. These activities provided valuable insights into current practices, challenges, and potential for improvement in RBMV implementation.

### Methodology

The session was run using a structured approach to encourage discussions and collaboration. It started with a panel discussion where programme representatives shared their insights on RBMV. Then, each speaker was asked specific questions to dig deeper into their experiences. After that, participants worked in groups to discuss their approach to management verifications and further steps to simplification.

### Key discussion points from the panel and group work

Panellists provided insights into their approaches to RBMV and discussed the level of simplification compared to previous periods.

Oana Mantog from DAC – Joint Audit Directorate for Cohesion shared perspectives on the current state of RBMV, including resistance from programmes at the beginning of the programming period and growing confidence in the approach lately.

Neven Vajnaht, representing Croatian Control, discussed their "bottom-up" approach to RBMV methodology and its effectiveness compared to administrative controls.

Petra Geitner from Interreg Europe elaborated on technical implementation challenges and future plans for RBMV, including gathering statistics on practical use.

Helga Portelli from Central Europe discussed program-specific approaches to RBMV and reactions from Member States to minimum requirements set by the programme.

Edmunds Snikeris from TESIM addressed challenges faced by NEXT programs and the relationship between RBMV and Simplified Cost Options (SCOs).

During the group work sessions, participants proposed several strategies to simplify RBMV further. Suggestions included implementing a risk-based approach toward selection of payment claims for verification and fostering good relations between Managing Authorities and Auditing Authorities. They also emphasised harmonising methodologies among programmes. There were also suggestions to provide more European Commission pre-

financing for project advances and establish a consistent methodology. Suggestions also covered investing in measures to ensure common understanding among stakeholders, and conducting mid-term risk assessments with relevant actors involved. Participants recommended enhancements to the joint electronic monitoring system, which includes automatic sampling and efficient feedback mechanisms. There is a need for specific guidelines for methodologies, especially regarding the impact of SCOs. Enhancing feedback mechanisms and controller involvement in capacity building, standardising risk assessment frameworks, and utilising unit costs for SCOs were also proposed. Finally, participants suggested establishing indicators of success to monitor RBMV effectiveness. These suggestions underscored the importance of collaboration, standardisation, and efficiency in RBMV practices across programmes.

### **Regulations and articles of particular significance**

Article 74 (1) of the CPR

### **Next steps**

Controllers workshop, Risk-based management verification in Interreg event and collection of inputs/feedback from programmes through communities, etc.

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