



IPA ADRION 1st Call for proposals

Next steps

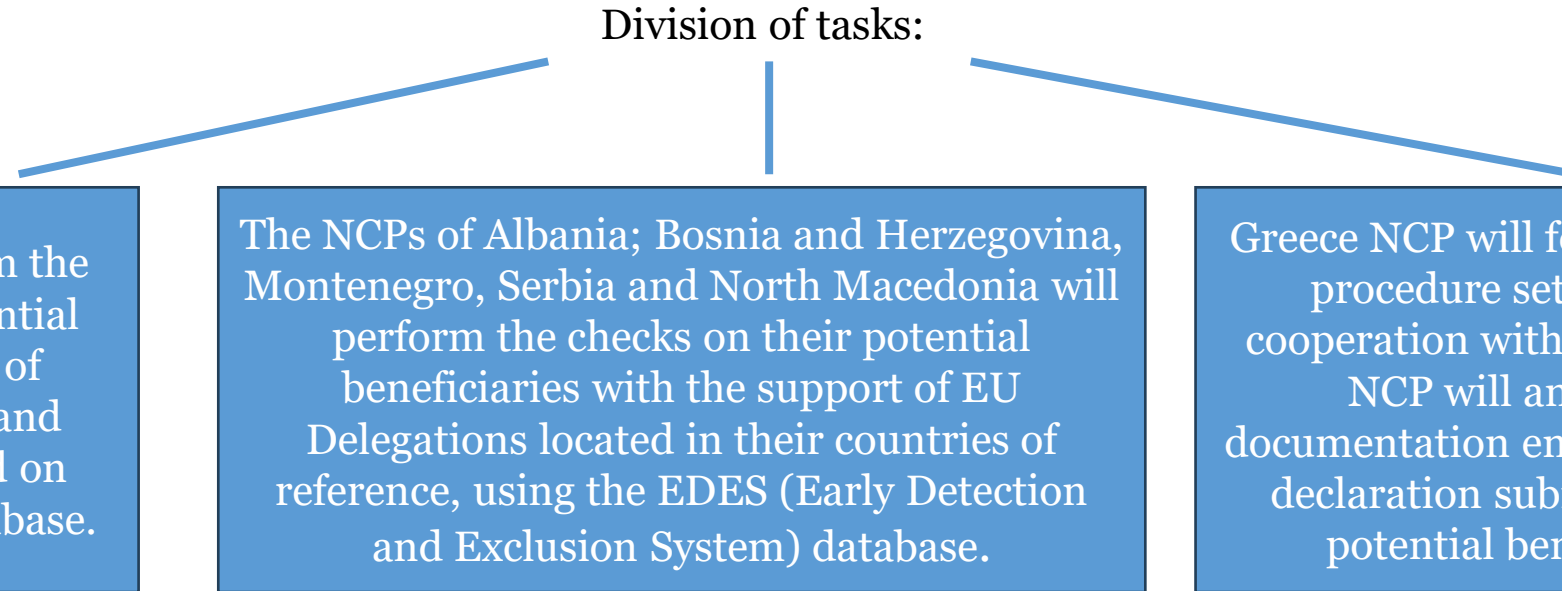
20/02/2024

Zagreb

IPA ADRION 1st Call - Anti-fraud checks

The anti-fraud check consists of the verification of previous fraudulent behaviors or other fraudulent practices by the partners involved in the project proposals. The check is performed only on those applications which successfully passed the assessment.

Division of tasks:



MA will perform the checks on potential beneficiaries of Croatia, Italy and Slovenia based on ARACHNE database.

The NCPs of Albania; Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and North Macedonia will perform the checks on their potential beneficiaries with the support of EU Delegations located in their countries of reference, using the EDES (Early Detection and Exclusion System) database.

Greece NCP will follow an ad hoc procedure set in place in cooperation with JS. The Greek NCP will analyse the documentation enclosed in a self-declaration submitted by the potential beneficiaries.

The JS already sent to the affected NCPs the list of potential beneficiaries to be checked. Deadline: **11th of March**.

In case the fraudulent behavior affects the Lead applicant: the project proposal is rejected.

In case the fraudulent behavior affects a project partner: it is excluded from the project proposal.

In case the exclusion of such partner(s) leads to non-fulfilment of the minimum partnership requirements, or there are two ineligible partners: the project proposal is rejected.

Outcomes of the anti-fraud checks are uploaded on JEMS and included in the project assessment grid to be submitted to the MC.

IPA ADRION 1st Call - Checks according to ex art. 22.4 lett. i) of Interreg Regulation

The scope is to ensure that selected operations are not directly affected by reasoned opinion by the Commission in respect of an infringement that puts at risk the legality and regularity of expenditures or the performance of operations.

INTERACT has advised the programmes to perform these checks in the database of infringements excluding some policy areas, in order to **avoid disproportionate administrative burden**.

The MA/JS will search in the database of infringements that the objective of the project does not match to the subject of a decision of the Commission.

These checks will take place only on the selected for funding projects, following the approval by the IPA ADRION MC.

In case of potential risks, NCPs/MC members will be contacted for clarification. The outcomes of these checks will be communicated to IPA ADRION MC.

IPA ADRION 1st Call - Lead Partners seminar and Negotiation process

Following the approval of the selected applications to be funded by the IPA ADRION MC, JS will inform accordingly all the applicants on the outcomes of the assessment process and organize the “Lead Partner seminar” with the funded projects starting in this way the negotiation process.

The Lead Partner Seminar is foreseen to take place online in the second week of March 2024 (if other checks are concluded), to clarify the next steps for the selected operations.

Bilateral meetings between JS and Lead Partners will follow, where the conditions for improvement, the revisions and the clarifications requested will be explained and fulfilled.

From previous experiences, at least two rounds of negotiates are necessary.

Giving the structure of the budget in JeMS, it was not always possible to detail budget cuts (e.g.: identification of some specific costs in flat rate categories). Therefore, cuts higher than foreseen are possible, but the cooperation of the LP is essential. It is impossible to exactly know the amount of budget deductions before the process is concluded.

Missing/wrong elements detected during the admissibility and eligibility checks will also be integrated (e.g. power of signature, wrong legal status of the partner).

Following the finalization of the negotiation process, the MC will be informed accordingly, whereas the Lead Partners will receive a communication that indicates the conclusion of such phase along with the final project budget and Interreg funds share.

IPA ADRION 1st Call - Contract signature

All the selected for funding projects that have fulfilled all the conditions for improvement set forth by the MC, a Subsidy Contract will be offered by the MA.

Considering that the negotiation process takes at least two rounds of negotiation, it is expected that the negotiation process is concluded in May 2024 (**with scenario 1, later with scenario 2-3 or different ones**).

The MA needs up to **one month** from the conclusion of the negotiation process to send to the LP the subsidy contract, due to internal budgetary procedures.

LP has **one month** for accepting the subsidy offer sent by the MA/JS. Following the aforementioned deadline, the MA offer loses its validity. If the signed contract is not received within the set deadline, the offer shall be considered as not accepted and the first project(s) in the ranking list with scores equal or higher the minimum one to be considered of good quality but not granted due to the limited available resources will be contacted to offer the grant.

IPA ADRION 1st Call - Implementation seminar and Supporting documentations

Following the signature of the Subsidy Contracts, MA/JS will organise an “Implementation Seminar” with the LPs, on the implementation rules and requirements.

The Implementation Seminar is expected to take place in the second May 2024 in Bologna in presence **(later if scenario 2, 3 or others are chosen)**.

The implementation Seminar will tackle the following main topics: - Legal obligations (Subsidy Contract and Partnership Agreement) - Guidelines on how to start with the right foot; - Audit trail; - Implementation rules; - Guidelines on reporting at partner and project level; - Monitoring of performance and mid-term review; - project modifications; - Communication requirements; - Use of JEMS - Etc.

The beneficiaries will be supported in the implementation of their projects by the following supporting documentation: - 1st call Implementation Manual; - JEMS Guidelines.






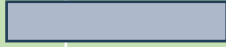
It is expected that the Implementation Manual will be sent for approval to the ADRION IPA MC within March 2024. In addition to the aforementioned documents, beneficiaries will be supported daily by the assigned project and financial officers.

IPA ADRION 1st Call - Calendar of the activities

Activities only referring to the First Call.

Depending on:

- conclusion of anti-fraud and other checks;
- number of approved operations (this tentative calendar is based on **scenario 1**);
- arrival of new foreseen colleagues:

2024	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
Anti-fraud checks							
Checks according to ex art. 22.4 lett. i) of Interreg Regulation							
Lead Partner Seminar							
Negotiation Process							
Contracts signature							
Implementation Manual							
Implementation Seminar					