

Interreg



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IPA ADRION

IPA ADRION 11th Monitoring Committee meeting

26 September 2024

Online meeting

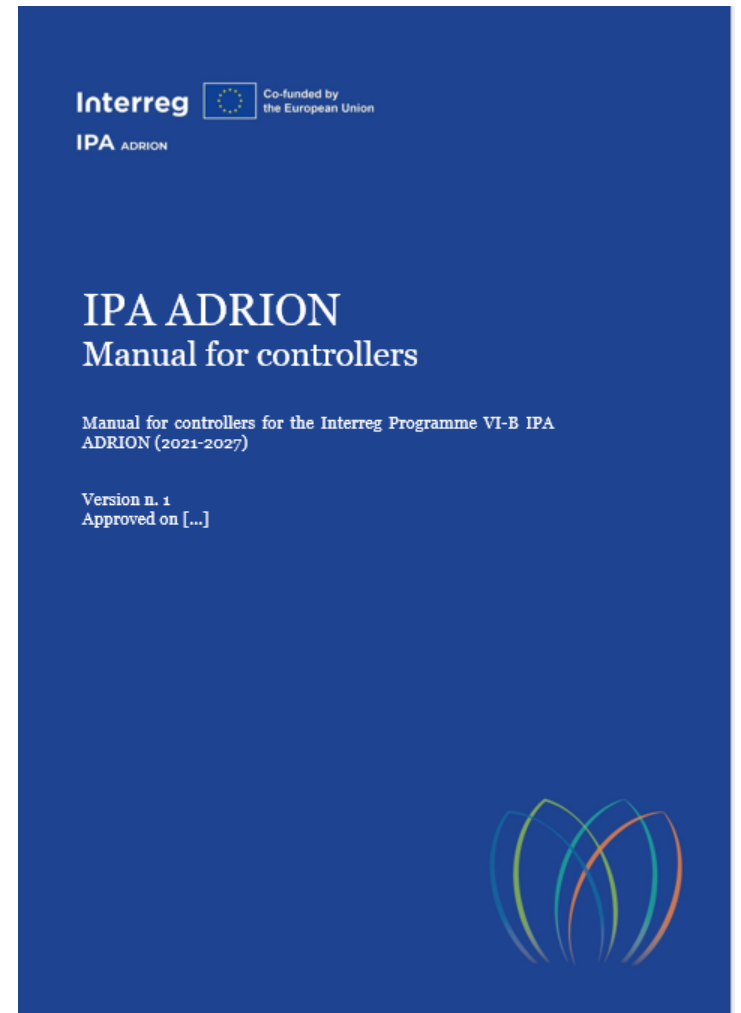




Introduction to the Manual

The IPA ADRION manual for controllers is developed at the program level to provide guidelines to national controllers of the Interreg IPA ADRION program.

It provides targeted information on the general purpose of the controllers' work and the verification process, including the novelties of the 2021-2027 programming period.





Purpose and scope of the manual

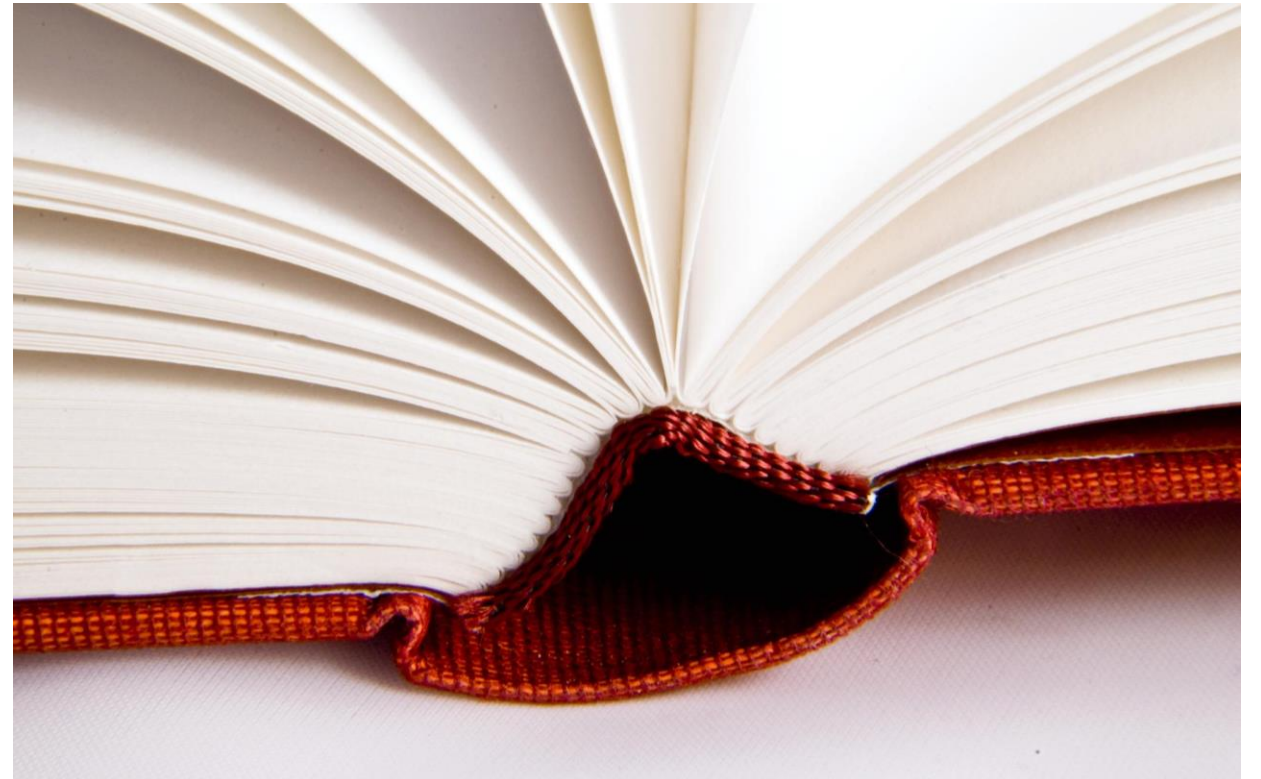
Purpose of the Manual

Developed at programme level

Provides guidance to national controllers

Target Audience

National controllers of Interreg IPA ADRION
programme





History of the draft Manual and steps

- Draft Manual 08 July 2024
- 1st online meeting with Controllers 25 July 2024
- Time for comments in writing by Controllers 8 July 2024 – 20 August
- 2nd online meeting with Controllers 3 September 2024
- 3rd online meeting with Controllers 9 September 2024
- Online MC meeting 26 September 2024 tbc
- In-person 2-days meeting with Controllers 01-02 October 2024



Scope of application

The manual refers to the verification of all types of projects, both standard and strategic.

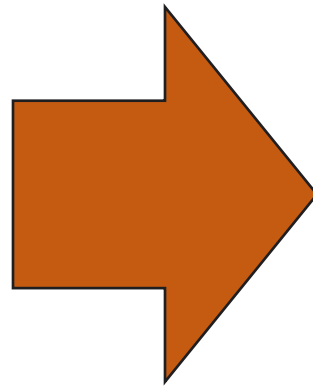
The same rules apply to both ERDF and IPA beneficiaries, with any differences explicitly indicated in the implementation manuals.



National control system

The National Control System is an integral part of the IPA ADRION program's control framework. It ensures compliance with EU regulations and program-specific rules.

It is important to highlight that National controllers are an integral part of the Management and Control System and contribute to ensure the reliability of the system



Italy: decentralised system

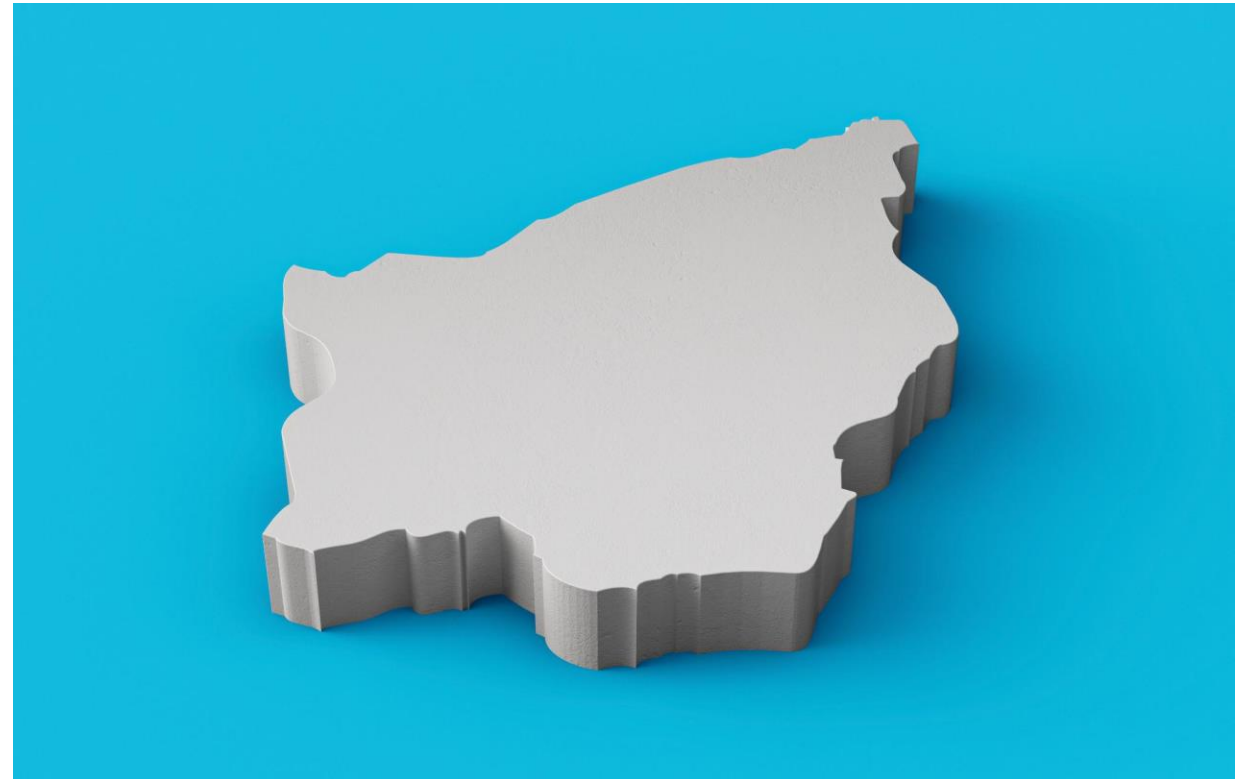
All other participating countries:
centralised system



Exclusion of San Marino beneficiaries

Applicability of provisions applies
only for countries receiving Interreg
funds

This excludes San Marino
beneficiaries





Controller's Verifications

Overview: Management verifications are an integral part of the IPA ADRION program's control system. They ensure compliance with EU regulations and program-specific rules.

Types of Verification: The verifications include administrative checks, on-the-spot checks. Both administrative checks and on-the-spot checks are conducted to verify compliance and accuracy.

Risk-Based Management Verification: The verifications are proportionate to the risks identified ex-ante and documented in writing. They focus on areas with higher risk to ensure effective use of resources. The process involves an initial risk assessment, development of a verification plan, implementation of the plan, and documentation of results.



Elegibility rules and SCOs (1/3)

Overview: EU Regulations apply first, followed by IPA ADRION program rules. National, regional, or local legislation and institutional rules can apply only if there are no EU or program provisions, or if these do not offer enough detail.

Specific Articles:

- Article 63(1) CPR: Eligibility of expenditure is determined based on national rules, except where specific rules are laid down in the CPR or Fund-specific Regulations.
- Article 37(2-3) Interreg Regulation: Additional rules on eligibility of expenditure for the Interreg program can be established by a joint decision in the monitoring committee



Elegibility rules and SCOs (2/3)

Overview: Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) are designed to simplify financial management and reduce administrative burden for beneficiaries and managing authorities.

Types of SCOs:

- Flat Rates: Costs declared on the basis of a percentage of other eligible costs.
- Lump Sums: Pre-defined amounts covering all or part of the costs of an operation.
- Standard Scales of Unit Costs: Pre-established amounts per unit, such as per hour or per item.

Guidance: The document provides technical guidance on the application of SCOs, including legal references and practical implications for verification



Elegibility rules and SCOs (3/3)

Eligibility rules and applicable SCOs are defined in the application package and implementation manual and approved separately by the MC



Handling Irregularities

Overview: The management of irregularities is a crucial aspect of the IPA ADRION program's control system. It ensures that any deviations from the rules are identified, reported, and addressed promptly.

Identification and Reporting: Irregularities are identified through management verifications, audits, and other control activities. Once identified, they must be reported to the relevant authorities using the Irregularity Management System (IMS).

Corrective Actions: Appropriate corrective actions are taken to address the irregularities. This may include financial corrections, recovery of funds, or other measures to rectify the situation.



Handling Fraud

Overview: Fraud prevention and detection are integral parts of the IPA ADRION program's control framework. The program follows a zero-tolerance policy towards fraud.

Fraud Risk Assessment: Regular fraud risk assessments are conducted to identify potential fraud risks. This involves analysing past cases, identifying risk factors, and implementing preventive measures.

Anti-Fraud Measures: The program implements various anti-fraud measures, including training for staff, awareness campaigns, and the use of advanced data analytics to detect suspicious activities. The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) provides additional support and guidance.

Content of the document: Reporting of irregularities



NATIONAL CONTROLLER

The controller is obliged to officially inform the competent national authority on the detected irregularity

PARTICIPATING COUNTRY COMPETENT INSTITUTION

Participating Countries shall report irregularities within 2 months following the end of each quarter from their detection or as soon as additional information on the reported irregularities becomes available.

A Participating Country shall immediately report to the EC irregularities discovered or supposed to have occurred, indicating the MA Country and any other Participating Country concerned, in case the irregularities may have repercussions outside its territory.

Irregularities shall be reported to OLAF, via IMS

The national ETC coordinator sends relevant quarterly information on those cases to the dedicated AFISMail box of the competent MA, in the form of a file exported from IMS

The MA must be informed without delay via email

MANAGING AUTHORITY

The MA is responsible to report, via IMS, the irregularities of Italian beneficiaries

For the other countries, the MA shares with the other competent authorities (e.g. AA) the information received by national ETC coordinators



FLC documents

Control Checklist	The checklist guides controllers' checks by requesting them to answer to a series of questions and to report on a series of checks. Once compiled, it reports the checks carried out, including checks aligned with the fraud risk self-assessment performed by IPA ADRION MA in accordance with Article 74(1) lett. c) of the CPR.
Control Certificate	The certificate states the expenditure amount certified and its characteristics.
Control Report	The report provides the final overview on the checks performed, the methodology used, and description of the detected findings and ineligible expenditure.
Inspection Report (for on-the-spot checks)	The inspection report provides information about how and when an on-the-spot check was performed, providing the final overview of the checks performed, the methodology used, and the description of the findings and of any detected ineligible expenditure.



Electronic monitoring system



eCohesion Requirements

IPA ADRION adheres to eCohesion standards

Jems Platform

Customized for IPA ADRION

Key tool for project lifecycle management

Project Lifecycle Management

- Submission
- Reporting
- Expenditure verification
- Monitoring and communication

Technical Support

Provided separately for controllers



Network of controllers' coordinators and MA sample checks

National controllers' representatives collect questions and address them to the MA/JS.

MA/JS report to controllers' coordinators on findings and deficiencies detected.

The MA performs quality control through sample checks based on identified risks.