

Description of the controls implemented in the framework of the management verifications under Article 74 of the CPR (including the National Control systems set up by the participating States in the Interreg Euro-MED Programme, in accordance with Article 46(3) and (7) of the Interreg Regulation, and the possible Quality Management Controls)

The information provided in this document is required to consolidate the MA control system, to synthesise the modalities of implementation of controls in the Programme Manual and to provide a short description of the National Control systems on the Programme webpage for each of the States participating in the Programme.

I. General information on the national control system (formerly known as the FLC)	
Participating State	Country: Slovenia
	Name of the institution responsible for the National Control System: Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development – MCRD
	Address: Kotnikova 5, 1000 Ljubljana
Contact person(s)	Name and surname: Ms. Maja Martinšek, MSc.
	Function/Position: Head of Control and Evaluation Division
	Email: maja.martinsek@gov.si
	Telephone: + 386 (0)1 400 3423
The information provided describes the situation at the time of ¹ :	24/01/2025
Has the system been changed compared to the 2014-2020 period?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the system for 2021-2027 the same as the one in place in your country for other programmes (Interreg or regional) for the same period?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please identify the programmes concerned: CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES: - Operational programme Italy–Slovenia

¹Any update of the information provided in this document should be transmitted to the Secretariat as soon as possible in order to impact the modifications in the Manual and on the programme website and, if applicable, the Interreg Euro-MED System Description.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operational programme Slovenia–Austria - Operational programme Slovenia–Hungary - Operational programme Slovenia–Croatia <p>OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transnational programme "Interreg Alpine Space" - Transnational programme "Interreg Central Europe" - Transnational programme "Interreg IPA Adrion" - Transnational programme "Interreg Danube Region" - Interregional programme "Interreg Europe" <p>INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL MECHANISMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 and the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 in Slovenia - Swiss Cohesion Contribution

2. Structure of the National Control System	
<p>Please indicate here which National Control system you opt for: (select ONE option only and refer to question 2.1 or 2.2 for more information)</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A centralised National Control system (a centrally designated structure ensures controls for all beneficiaries in its territory) Please come back to your situation in detail in question 2.1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A decentralised National Control system. Please come back to your situation in detail in question 2.2</p>

2.1 Centralised National Control System	
Institution in charge of National Control: Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development - MCRD	
Contact information of the institution in charge of the National Control: <i>(if more than one institution is in charge of the centralised control, please copy and paste the 10 sub-lines relating to the "contact</i>	Institution in charge of National Control:
	Name of the institution: Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development - MCRD
	Administrative level (national, regional, other): National
	Unit/Department responsible: Control and Evaluation Division, Interreg Programmes and Financial Mechanisms Control Section
	Address: Kotnikova 5, 1000 Ljubljana
Contact person	

<i>information of the institution", as many times as necessary)</i>	Name and surname: Ms. Maja Martinšek, MSc.
	Function/Position: Head of Control and Evaluation Division
	Email: maja.martinsek@gov.si
	Telephone: + 386 (0)1 400 3423
Description of the National Control System	<p>The description of the control system regarding the scope of the work, the task and responsibilities of each controller:</p> <p>The objectives and scope of the work is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – to verify the reality of the expenditure – to verify the legality and regularity of the expenditure – to verify the delivery of the products and services co-financed – to ensure the compliance with the principles of sound financial management, economy, efficiency and effectiveness – to verify the soundness of the expenditure declared – to verify the compliance of the expenditure: with the Community rules, with programme rules, where applicable, with national rules – to verify the respect of public procurement rules – to verify the respect of State Aid rules – to verify the respect of publicity rules – to verify that the project partner received the ERDF funds in full – to verify the respect of horizontal principles – to verify the generation of revenue – to avoid double co-financing – to verify the maintenance of an adequate and reliable accounting system – to verify the maintenance of an audit trail in JEMS at PP level of the operation. <p>The tasks and responsibilities of each controller:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – to perform administrative check (sample based) of the eligibility of costs and confirmations of eligible costs for reimbursement of EU funds related to activities and outputs of Slovenian project partners (activity and financial reports, supplements), as well as sample checks on-the-spot – providing guidance and clarifications to beneficiaries (after submitting their reports) and relevant institutions as well as preparation of the national guidelines for project partners - preparation and updating of the description of the national control system for the programme

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – maintenance of the records of received reports from beneficiaries – organisation of workshops for Slovene project partners – cooperation with national contact point, members of the national authority and the joint secretariat – participation at European and national audits of the projects and their eventual follow-up – preparation of analyses, reports and information related to control.
<p>Short description of the National Control System (for the attention of the partners and for publication on your national web page on the Interreg Euro-MED website)</p>	<p>Text to be published on the Programme's webpage:</p> <p>NATIONAL CONTROL Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development - MCRD Control and Evaluation Division, Interreg Programmes and Financial Mechanisms Control Section Kotnikova 5, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia Ms. Maja Martinšek Head of Control and Evaluation Division Tel: +386 (0)1 400 3423 E-mail: maja.martinsek@gov.si</p> <p>Interreg Programmes and Financial Mechanisms Control Section Mr. Dušan Kotnik Head of Interreg Programmes and Financial Mechanisms Control Section E-mail: dusan.kotnik1@gov.si</p> <p>Contact person: Ms. Mateja Žužel E-mail: mateja.zuzel@gov.si</p> <p>SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIONAL CONTROL SYSTEM Slovenia opted for a centralized control system, in which the Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development (MCRD) is responsible for controlling and confirming expenditures of Slovenian project partners.</p> <p>Control costs Controls are free of charge for Slovenian project partners.</p>

	<p>On-the-spot verifications conducted by the controllers performed on a sample basis and they are an addition to the administrative check. Sample based OTSC are performed, according to the results of risk assessment, only for the selected project partners. With an exception in case of projects involving investments and/or equipment where on-the-spot checks for Slovenian partners are mandatory once in the project lifetime.</p> <p>Because there are so many different scenarios and situations for all of you, there can be no one-size-fits-all solution to address the situation. Thus, we invite you to reach the Slovenian National Control by sending an e-mail to kontrola-med.mkrr@gov.si should you have any further questions regarding the eligibility of expenditure and reporting.</p> <p>The National Control website will be regularly updated with any further information and potential additional recommendations so stay tuned Predpisi programov Interreg - Evropska sredstva (https://evropskasredstva.si/predpisi-programov-interreg/)</p>
<p>If National Control is held by more than one institution, please specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The role of each of the institutions within the control flow - The way the system is structured (how the control tasks are distributed, which institution is in charge of signing the control certificates/statements). 	/
Control is provided by:	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public service employees</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> an external audit firm selected to develop this specific assignment and under the responsibility of the entity(ies) mentioned below.</p>
If an external audit firm(s) is (are) performing the audit, please specify :	
The entity in charge of supervising the tasks and contracting the external audit firm(s)	Institution in charge of supervision
	Name of the institution: /
	Address:
	Contact person:
	Name and surname: /

	Telephone:
	Email:
Contact details of the external audit firm(s)	Name of the audit firm : /
	Address:
	Contact person:
	Name and surname:
	Telephone:
	Email:

2.2 Decentralised First Level Control System	
What is the procedure followed for the designation of the CPN in accordance with Article 46(3) and (7) of the Interreg Regulation and Article 74.1 a) of the CPR Regulation	<p>The competent entity shall appoint a qualified and independent Controller on the basis of :</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A proposal for a controller (internal or external) from the project partner who is then approved at national level</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the project partner selects a controller from a list of approved control entities (public or private) pre-established at national level.</p>
<p>In both cases, please detail the procedure for establishing the shortlist from which the National Controller will be selected by the PP or for validating the independent National Controllers</p> <p>If available, please send us the approval template to be used at national level.</p>	Text:

<p>If the controller will be appointed on the basis of a proposal made by the partner, please indicate whether the controller will be internal and/or external</p>	<p>The controller can be :</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Internal (as long as it is independent from the unit in charge of the financial and quality management of the project, see point 4 below))</p> <p>and/or (cross out the unnecessary mention)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> External</p>
<p>Please indicate the procedure foreseen to ensure the independence of the National Controller from the regulatory audit functions or any other function within the partner organisation.</p>	<p>Text:</p>
<p>Indicate the contact details of the entity in charge of establishing the list of pre-selected controllers or in charge of approving a controller directly proposed by the partner.</p>	<p>Entity in charge of the appointment of the National Controller</p>
	<p>Name of the entity:</p>
	<p>Address:</p>
	<p>Contact person:</p>
	<p>Name and surname:</p>
<p>During the life of the project, is a validation by the national entity in charge of National Control foreseen for each certificate validated by the partner's controller? (e.g : applicable for Spain and Portugal for 2014-2020)</p>	<p>Telephone:</p>
	<p>Email:</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>IF YES, please specify the contact details of the structure in charge of this validation</p>	<p>Entity in charge of issuing the National validation</p>
	<p>Name of the entity: /</p>
	<p>Address:</p>
	<p>Contact person: /</p>
	<p>Name and surname:</p>
	<p>Telephone:</p>

	Email:
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3. Competences of the National Controller	
<p>Indicate the minimum criteria required for a National Controller under a centralised or decentralised control system in accordance with the provisions of Article 46.9 of the ETC Regulations.</p> <p>E.g. specify whether the National Controller should ensure that he:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is independent of the controlled partner structure* (in the case of a decentralised system) • is registered with a professional organisation; • has minimum qualifications such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ relevant diplomas; ✓ relevant professional experience; ✓ relevant experience on projects co-financed by the structural funds ✓ mandatory national qualifications (if applicable specify); ✓ national accreditation/validation (if applicable, specify how such accreditation/validation was obtained) ✓ sufficient knowledge of English and/or French (official languages of the Interreg Euro-MED Programme) ✓ Knowledge of EU regulations, the Programme and national rules. 	<p>The national controllers must hold a degree in a relevant field and must have working experiences of minimum two years either in accounting, finance, business administration and/or project management. The national controllers must have experience with EU programmes and/or projects, while experience in control, especially of the Interreg projects, is preferred.</p> <p>For the new employees at the workplace of Advisor and Finance Officer our legislation requires a minimum of 6 or 7 months of work experience (3 months probationary period). During this time frame they're working under 100% supervision. After that time, they're meant to be independent but still have the possibility to be advised by their mentors.</p> <p>Additionally, it is required that all controllers can speak English and are using all programme documents and templates. The national controllers are familiar with the EU regulations on European Structural and Investment Funds and national rules and participate at controllers' working group meetings of the Interreg Euro-MED programme.</p>

<p>Explain whether National Controllers will be trained on specific National Control issues, e.g.,:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculation of staff costs (in accordance with the Programme rules), • Simplified cost options, • Public procurement, • VAT, • State aid, • Use of the online monitoring tool of the Euro-MED Interreg Programme (Jems). • Checks on activities (correct execution of activities, relations with the expenses presented, existence of deliverables and project achievements) 	<p>The training of the National Controllers is ensured systematically through dedicated training courses and other events organized by the MCRD, especially when some novelties occur. These trainings are carried out by responsible national bodies (e.g. Ministry of Finance) or by external experts. The topics include public procurement, eligibility of expenditure, irregularities, accounting rules, state aid, and staff costs calculations.</p> <p>Controllers also regularly participate at INTERACT seminars and workshops as well.</p>
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4. Separation of Functions: National Control, Second Level Audit and Project Partners	
<p>If the functions of National Controller, Second Level Audit and/or project partner are potentially located within the same organisation, explain how a clear separation of functions is ensured between the departments responsible for management, project and/or Programme controls.</p> <p>If necessary, please provide a document demonstrating the independence of the units in charge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - regulatory audit functions within the partner organisation, 	<p>Interreg Division within Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development is the National Contact Point and is responsible for advising the Slovenian project partners, stipulating contracts and paying out national co-financing on state level.</p> <p>Interreg Programmes and Financial Mechanisms Control Section within Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development is responsible for the verification of the project expenditure and delivery of the products and services according to the EU Regulation.</p> <p>The Ministry of Finance (MoF), Budget Supervision Office of the Republic of Slovenia (BSO) is responsible for the second level control audit.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the implementation of activities and the financial management of the project - the verification of expenditure and implementation of project activities (in the sense of "verifications" as referred to in Article 46(3) of the Interreg Regulation) - verifications carried out on samples of operations (in the sense of "audits" as referred to in Article 48 of the Interreg Regulation), - representation on the Monitoring Committee (in accordance with Article 28 of the Interreg Regulation) 	<p>As explained above the NC is organizationally separated from Interreg Division that is responsible for project approval /Monitoring Committee representation, whereas the second level control is performed by a different institution from the one responsible for performing controls and monitoring committee representation.</p>
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5. Timeframe for implementation of National Control work	
<p>How do you ensure that sufficient human and financial resources are provided for the implementation of the full National Control process and that the latter (including on-site visits) is carried out within the regulatory timeframe indicated in Article 46.6 of the Interreg Regulation?</p> <p>E.g. specify the maximum number of projects assigned to a controller, the maximum time allowed for partners to send their documents to the controller after the end of the implementation period, the maximum time for the production of a certificate, the maximum time limit under which clarifications must be sent by the partner to the controller, etc.</p>	<p>Based on experience, we have decided all the controllers within the Interreg Programmes and Financial Mechanisms Control Section will perform control for 10 Interreg programmes, IFM Programmes (NOR and EEA Grants) as well as for Swiss Cohesion Contribution. It means that in peak times in a very short time all the controllers will perform the controls on certain programme to avoid delays.</p> <p>Certification time per financial report largely depends on the supplements needed, but generally all financial reports are certified within 3 months from the date of submission of the complete financial report.</p>

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6. Quality assurance - instructions and tools provided to National Controllers	
<p>The Interreg Euro-MED Programme provides National Controllers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a Programme Manual; - a model for first level control certificates (including a report, a statement and a checklist) to be signed by the NCs <p>The use of these standard documents and the Jems online monitoring system are mandatory.</p> <p>Do you plan to provide additional information to the structures in charge of National Control to ensure good financial management and correct validation of expenditure (e.g. guides, manuals, training, etc.)?</p> <p>If YES, please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the reference - the date² - a digital copy of the document or a link to a web page where an updated version of the guidance will be available (the information will be made available on the Programme website) 	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>The controller uses the programme rules and the national rules where applicable.</p> <p>In addition, the Interreg Programmes and Financial Mechanisms Control Section is complementing the documentation with specifics related to the national legislation.</p> <p>Controllers will regularly participate in trainings; they will participate in the meetings of the group of controllers within the framework of Interact. They will also have internal instructions and guidelines for implementation, which are in preparation.</p>

²Any update of the information provided in this document should be transmitted to the Secretariat as soon as possible in order to impact the modifications in the Handbook and on the programme website and, if applicable, the Interreg Euro-MED System Description.

<p>In accordance with Article 74.1 a) of the CPR and Article 46(3) and (7) of the Interreg Regulation, please explain how you plan to manage and monitor the proper implementation, timeliness and quality of the National Control system on your territory.</p> <p>Explain how, if necessary, corrective measures will be implemented (e.g. systematic quality controls, training, regular working meetings with your National Controllers etc.)</p>	<p>All corrective measures are implemented according to the requirements of EU regulations, national law, programme guidance and Interreg Programmes and Financial Mechanisms Control Section guidance.</p> <p>Based on experience, we decided all the controllers within the Interreg Programmes and Financial Mechanisms Control Section will perform control for 10 ETC programmes and IFM Programmes (NOR and EEA Grants), as well as Swiss Cohesion Contribution. It means that in peak times in a very short time all the controllers will perform the controls on certain CP in order to avoid delays.</p> <p>Based on experience, we have decided all the controllers within the Control Section for Interreg Programmes and Financial Mechanisms will perform control for 10 Interreg programmes, IFM Programmes (NOR and EEA Grants) as well as for Swiss Cohesion Contribution. It means that in peak times in a very short time all the controllers will perform the controls on certain programme in order to avoid delays.</p> <p>The training of NC will be ensured through dedicated training courses and other events tailor made for Interreg controllers by INTERACT and additional formation linked to national specifics organised by relevant national institutions.</p> <p>Text:</p>
<p>On the basis of the risks identified, the Interreg Euro-MED Programme does not foresee sampling for the work of the national controllers.</p> <p>In accordance with Article 74.2 of the CPR, please specify whether controls will be implemented on the basis of a risk-based approach determined at national level.³</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Text:</p> <p>Please find the attached document Annex 1 Methodology for sample-based AV Euro-MED eng, _1.0, dated December 2024.</p>

³ ART 74.2 CPR: The management verifications referred to in point (a) of the first subparagraph of paragraph 1 shall be based on a risk assessment and shall be proportionate to the risks identified ex ante and in writing. Management verifications shall include administrative verifications of payment claims submitted by beneficiaries and on-the-spot verifications of operations. These verifications shall be carried out before the presentation of the accounts in accordance with Article 98.

Please describe briefly the sampling modalities envisaged and provide the detailed methodology (in one of the programme languages) ⁴	Based on the historical data and the Interreg HIT tools National Control has prepared the analysis and defined minimum requirements that should be consider when preparing the methodology. To define the sample, first we take out and check all the items/expenditures with a high-risk (100% verification) then, based on the specific risks and professional judgement of the controller, we draw a random sample of the remaining items.
Depending on the National Control system established in your country, and in accordance with Article 74.2 of the CPR, will the national controller be required to carry out one or more on-the-spot checks during the implementation of the project? It is assumed that the Programme requires at least one on-the-spot visit by National Controllers in case of activities involving investments.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No On-the-spot checks are performed on sample basis, according to the results of the risk assessment only for the selected project partners. Whit an exception in the case of projects involving investments and equipment where on-the-spot check for Slovenian partners are mandatory once in the project lifetime.

7. Costs of National Control	
Who will pay for the Controls? If control costs are covered by the project partners and declared as eligible costs for the project, please specify to whom the partner should pay these costs and any conditions for their eligibility (e.g. presence of a mission contract, agreement with the MS, convention,...)	Interreg Programmes and Financial Mechanisms Control Section will perform national controls free of charge for Slovenian project partners.

II 1 General information on Management Quality Controls (MQC)	

⁴ According to the Commission, "risk assessments made by controllers must be reviewed and approved by the Managing Authority. Any differences in approach between Member States must be duly justified"⁴ : any sampling method applied at national level will thus be reviewed by the GOA member concerned and validated by the MA considering the proposal in the light of the results of the checks and errors/irregularities for the country concerned.

Do you plan to implement Management Quality Controls?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not yet determined
Contact person(s) for MQCs :	Name and surname: / Function/Position: Email: Telephone:
Has the system been changed compared to the 2014-2020 period?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the system for 2021-2027 the same as the one in place in your country for other programmes (Interreg or regional) for the same period?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If such controls are foreseen, please define the scope of the control (work of the national controller, management capacities of the partner, etc.) and provide a brief description of the planned/adopted methodology.	
The information provided describes the situation at the time of ⁵ :	24/01/2025

⁵ Any update of the information provided in this document should be transmitted to the Secretariat as soon as possible in order to impact the modifications in the Handbook and on the programme website and, if applicable, the Interreg Euro-MED System Description.