



Interreg 

Austria-Hungary 2014-2020

European Union – European Regional Development Fund



COVID-19 IMPACT ON INTERREG ATHU FUNDED PROJECTS

Communication of the Managing Authority
of the Interreg V-A ATHU Programme

13.03.2020



The Managing Authority (MA) and the Joint Secretariat (JS) of the Interreg ATHU Programme have received a number of queries related to the eligibility of expenditure of events, business trips, etc. due to the COVID-19 epidemic. In this respect the MA/JS provide the following guidance to all lead partners, partners and control bodies of the programme.

General to-dos and don'ts

In general, the MA/JS advises to assess the situation according the recommendations by the relevant authorities responsible for public health such as WHO or national health organisations. In case of official travel ban/warnings for the region the projects might be forced to cancel the project related travels and events. You should avoid travelling if:

- There is an official travel ban or travel warning for the region, by your organisation, or at any relevant territory;
- A partner organisation restricts travels for meetings;
- You have justified medical conditions.

Eligibility of already occurred expenditure

If travels, events, etc. that have been (partially) paid for, need to be cancelled, we recommend that you ask for reimbursement quickly and in line with contractual terms.

Expenditure related to the cancelled travel, event, etc. (e.g. tickets, pre-paid accommodation, event services) that has occurred before the cancellation shall be eligible and the responsible FLCs shall accept them if:

- They cannot be recovered by any means. The travelling persons and organisers are obliged to minimize such expenditure;
- They are subject to inevitable external circumstances (force majeure) e.g. official warnings by WHO or national authorities, or to the COVID-19 related medical condition or its suspicion of some participant¹;
- This expenditure and the relevant instructions of the authorities for such a decision or the medical condition are properly documented.

In case the expenditure is reimbursed by other means (by the provider, insurance, etc.), it cannot be claimed in the framework of the programme.

Further implementation of the project

Projects are advised to continue implementing their activities as originally planned. As the situation is constantly changing, the MA/JS recommend:

- For future travels and events make use of flexible booking options and contractual arrangements allowing refundable cancellations;
- In order to avoid negative impact to the project implementation, wherever possible it is recommended to replace cancelled meetings, events by on-line meetings/video-conferences, targeted online promotional campaigns, videos, online presentation of results, use of social media and website, etc.;

¹ See also Article 20 of the ERDF contract about force majeure.





- In case project activities other than travel and events are concerned due to the COVID-19-virus situation, projects are requested to properly document those cases and to identify alternative solutions to implement the activities in question.
- Please use the proposed alternative measures to reduce the delay in project implementation to the possible minimum – project prolongation is possible only in individually and duly justified cases within the framework of the general time-wise eligibility rules of the programme.

Should you need any further information or clarification, please contact us by e-mail or phone.

Best regards,

Managing Authority
Interreg V-A Austria-Hungary Programme

