

Interreg-IPA CBC Programme between Republic of Bulgaria and Republic of North Macedonia, Second Call for proposals

Questions and Answers

No.	Question	Answer
1.	Which version of PRAG should be applied in case of modification to the PRAG rules/annexes?	<p>In accordance with p. 4, "Public Procurement" of PIM during the project implementation PRAG may be amended. In case of substantial changes in the rules and procedures of PRAG, the MA will reflect the relevant changes in the PIM. Nevertheless, the beneficiaries have the obligation to keep a close watch on the latest version of PRAG and to apply the current procedures and annexes.</p> <p>In case of modification of PRAG rules/annexes, the procedures launched before the new version was officially published shall be procured and contracted following the previous version of the Guide.</p>
2.	In relation to the procurement of Global price option for simplified services contract, is there a ceiling for the advance payments that we are allowed to make to sub-contractors of services to be provided in the framework of the project?	<p>According to the PRAG, annex B8o2, Special conditions for simplified services contract, art. 29 Payment and interest on late payment an option for Global price contract for service contracts was given: Maximum pre-financing payment - max. 40 % of the contract value. The contractor is not obliged to ask for pre-financing.</p>
3.	In the process of reporting the expenses related to staff assigned on part-time using the real cost basis, should we prepare separate payment slips for the payment of social security contributions, specifically for the needs of the project and stating only the amount relevant to the reported working hours on the project of the relevant project team members?	<p>The beneficiary has the obligation to ensure that the expenditures reported are traceable with the presented proofs and documents in any chosen real cost basis option. Separate payment slips for the payment of social security contributions related to staff assigned on part-time, stating only the amount relevant to the reported working hours on the project of the relevant project team members will make the expenditures traceable in the reporting process.</p>

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4.	<p>Are we allowed to appoint as external experts (i.e. budgeted in BL4.9), staff members of the Beneficiary which are not assigned as members of the project team? The selection process will comply with the relevant tender regulations (i.e. Practical Guide, etc.), and the appointed expert will have the necessary expertise and educational background to perform the required tasks and duties, as described in the approved AF of the project.</p>	<p>It is possible that such inclusion of experts from the applicant organization, who are not members of the managing team of the project as external experts in BL 4.9. The selection process must be in compliance with the relevant tender regulations. The following principles should be followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Transparency - the contracting authority should ensure openness and clarity on procurement policy and its delivery. This obligation consists in ensuring, for the benefit of any potential tenderer, a degree of advertising sufficient to enable the market to be opened up to competition and the impartiality of procurement procedures to be reviewed. ➤ Equal treatment and non-discrimination - all interested parties should be treated in the same way, meaning that all tenderers must be afforded equal opportunities when formulating their tenders, which therefore implies that the tenders of all competitors must be subject to the same conditions.