

## DON MARCOS ORTUÑO SOTO, SECRETARIO DEL CONSEJO DE GOBIERNO DE LA COMUNIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE LA REGIÓN DE MURCIA.

CERTIFICO: Según resulta del borrador del acta de la sesión celebrada el día diecinueve de octubre de dos mil veintitrés, a propuesta del Consejero de Fomento e Infraestructuras, el Consejo de Gobierno autoriza la suscripción del Acuerdo de subvención entre la Agencia Ejecutiva Europea en materia de Clima, Infraestructuras y Medio Ambiente (CINEA) y la Consejería de Fomento e Infraestructuras (CARM) PIC 907305409, a través de su titular, correspondiente a la convocatoria CEF-T-2022-SAFEMOBGEN, Proyecto 101122631- 22-ES-TG-MURCIA SAFE4TRUCKS, asumiendo con ello el compromiso de ejecutar la acción descrita en el Acuerdo y recibir la subvención concedida para ello.

Y para que conste y a los procedentes efectos, expido, firmo y sello la presente en Murcia a la fecha de la firma electrónica recogida al margen.



RELACIÓN DE DOCUMENTOS DEL EXPEDIENTE RELATIVO A ACEPTACIÓN DE LA SUBVENCIÓN Y AUTORIZACIÓN SUSCRIPCIÓN DEL ACUERDO DE SUBVENCIÓN ENTRE LA AGENCIA EJECUTIVA EUROPEA DE CLIMA, INFRAESTRUCTURAS Y MEDIO **AMBIENTE** (CINEA) Υ LA CONSEJERÍA DE **FOMENTO** INFRAESTRUCTURAS, A TRAVÉS DE SU TITULAR, CORRESPONDIENTE A LA CONVOCATORIA CEF-T-2022-SAFEMOBGEN, Proyecto 101122631-22-ES-TG-MURCIA SAFE4TRUCKS.

- 1- Propuesta al Consejo de Gobierno.
- 2- Informe del Servicio Jurídico de la Secretaría General
- 3- Propuesta de la Dirección General de Movilidad y Transportes.
- 4- Informe de la Dirección General de Movilidad y Transportes.
- 5- Informe técnico.
- 6- Acuerdo de subvención correspondiente a la convocatoria CEF-T-2022-SAFEMOBGEN.



#### PROPUESTA DE ACUERDO

Dentro del mecanismo "Conectar Europa" se convocan por la Comisión Europea subvenciones para determinadas categorías de proyectos, una de estas convocatorias es la CEF-T-2022-SAFEMOBGEN.

La Consejería de Fomento e Infraestructuras presentó el proyecto para la construcción de un Área de Estacionamiento seguro de Camiones dentro de esta convocatoria. El proyecto ha sido seleccionado y se invita a la Consejería de Fomento a firmar el Acuerdo de otorgamiento de subvención, conteniendo las obligaciones y derechos de cada una de las partes. El proyecto se denomina 101122631 — 22-ES-TG-MURCIA SAFE4TRUCKS.

El objetivo del proyecto es la construcción de un Área de Estacionamiento Seguro de Camiones (SSTPA), junto a la Red Principal, en el tramo Murcia-Almeria del Corredor Mediterráneo. Esta infraestructura será un referente para un aparcamiento seguro y protegido en la Región de Murcia y en el sureste de España. Contará con 415 plazas de aparcamiento para vehículos pesados de transporte de mercancías y una superficie de 8,4 ha, contará con zona de los vehículos de transporte de mercancías en general, vehículos refrigerados, vehículos inflamables y vehículos peligrosos no inflamables.

La Consejería de Fomento e Infraestructuras, también es coordinador de proyectos anteriores, relacionados con la zona de actividad logística asociada para la integración del transporte de mercancías por carretera y ferrocarril (ZAL de Murcia)», financiados por la Unión Europea a través, entre otros, del programa MCE (acción CEF 2014-ES-TM-0253-S). A través de éstos se están desarrollando los principales instrumentos urbanísticos para el desarrollo de la Zona de Actividad Logística y la Terminal Intermodal de Murcia.

Considerando que la ayuda total asignada a la Comunidad Autónoma de Murcia para la ejecución del citado proyecto es de 4.957.691.00 euros, de los



9.915.383.00 euros de presupuesto total del proyecto, y teniendo en cuenta la importancia y magnitud del mismo se estima de gran interés que se proceda a la suscripción del Acuerdo de Subvención con la Agencia Ejecutiva Europea de Clima, Infraestructuras y Medio Ambiente.

En virtud de lo establecido en el apartado 35 del artículo 22 de la Ley 6/2004, de 28 de diciembre, del Estatuto del Presidente y del Consejo de Gobierno de La Región de Murcia, y en concordancia con el artículo 16.2.c) de la Ley 7/2004, de 28 de diciembre, de Organización y Régimen Jurídico de la Administración de la Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia, se eleva al Consejo de Gobierno la siguiente

#### **PROPUESTA**

Autorizar la suscripción del Acuerdo de subvención entre la Agencia Ejecutiva Europea en materia de Clima, Infraestructuras y Medio Ambiente (CINEA) y la Consejería de Fomento e Infraestructuras (CARM) PIC 907305409, a través de su titular, correspondiente a la convocatoria CEF-T-2022-SAFEMOBGEN, Proyecto 101122631- 22-ES-TG-MURCIA SAFE4TRUCKS, asumiendo con ello el compromiso de ejecutar la acción descrita en el Acuerdo y recibir la subvención concedida para ello, cuyo texto se acompaña.

EL CONSEJERO DE FOMENTO E INFRAESTRUCTURAS

(documento firmado electrónicamente al margen)
José Manuel Pancorbo de la Torre



#### Informe Jurídico

Asunto: Proyecto de construcción de un área de estacionamiento seguro de camiones al amparo del Acuerdo de Concesión de una subvención de la Comunidad Europea, Proyecto 101122631-22-ES-TG-Murcia Safetrucks.

El expediente remitido ha sido confeccionado por la Dirección General de Movilidad y Litoral, y se han remitido Propuesta de Acuerdo al Consejo de Gobierno, informe técnico, Borrador de Acuerdo de suscripción de la subvención.

La propuesta de Acuerdo a elevar al Consejo de Gobierno es similar a otras que se han hecho en el pasado reciente (por ejemplo el proyecto de Implementación de la Terminal Intermodal de Murcia y Conexión Ferroviaria al Corredor Mediterráneo de la RTE-E), por lo que pueden darse por reproducidas las consideraciones que entonces se hicieron en el informe de este Servicio de 10/19/2022.

Se trata, por ello, de la suscripción de lo que se denomina Acuerdo, que se traduce en la obligación de ejecutar la acción y recibir la subvención parcial para ello, ya que de los 9.915.3834 € previstos, la Comunidad Autónoma recibe en forma de subvención un total de 4.957.691 €.

De acuerdo con el informe técnico que obra en el expediente, de fecha 6/10/2023 el proyecto incluye un desarrollo completo de la actuación "con el detalle suficiente para hacer factible su construcción y explotación de acuerdo a lo que figura en la Memoria de dicho Proyecto".

Obra en el expediente la convocatoria para la suscripción del Acuerdo, la solicitud y la Resolución por la que se selecciona el Proyecto de la CARM, llamado Carta de concesión, con un plazo de duración de 25 meses, como así el Proyecto presentado con fecha 18/01/2023 bajo signatura



101122631, figurando la Consejería de Fomento como organismo coordinador.

Igualmente se dice en la documentación aportada que el proyecto es prioritario tanto para la red trans-europea de como para el Gobierno de Murcia.

Como se ha señalado con anterioridad, la financiación a cargo de la CARM es de 4.957.691,85 (apartado 2.3 del CEF-T-SAFEMOBGEN). Pese a existir o asumir esta obligación con la suscripción del Acuerdo, se ha considerado por la Dirección General de Presupuestos de la CARM que no es preceptivo su informe pese a esta circunstancia, lo que ya ocurrió con Acuerdos de porte parecido como en el Acuerdo de la Estación Intermodal de Murcia, en que la Subdirección General de Presupuestos, consideró no preceptivo su informe, pese a la obligación que se adquiere con la suscripción del Acuerdo, ahora como entonces, de lo que se advierte expresamente.

El Acuerdo se somete al Derecho de la UE, suplementándolo si es necesario por el Derecho Belga, Apartado 4.3.1, sometiéndose a la Corta de Justicia de acuerdo con el artículo 272 del Tratado de Funcionamiento de la Unión Europea.

De acuerdo con la documentación remitida a esta Servicio Jurídico, este no encuentra obstáculo legal alguno para elevar al Consejo de Gobierno la autorización necesaria, pudiéndose elevar a la superioridad la propuesta remitida.

El Jefe del Servicio Jurídico Fdo. Fernando Roca Guillamón

Plaza de Santoña, 6 30071 – Murcia. www.carm.es/cpt/

#### PROPUESTA DE ACUERDO

Dentro del mecanismo "Conectar Europa" se convocan por la Comisión Europea subvenciones para determinadas categorías de proyectos, una de estas convocatorias es la CEF-T-2022-SAFEMOBGEN.

La Consejería de Fomento e Infraestructuras presentó el proyecto para la construcción de un Área de Estacionamiento seguro de Camiones dentro de esta convocatoria. El proyecto ha sido seleccionado y se invita a la Consejería de Fomento a firmar el Acuerdo de otorgamiento de subvención, conteniendo las obligaciones y derechos de cada una de las partes. El proyecto se denomina 101122631 — 22-ES-TG-MURCIA SAFE4TRUCKS.

El objetivo del proyecto es la construcción de un Área de Estacionamiento Seguro de Camiones (SSTPA), junto a la Red Principal, en el tramo Murcia-Almeria del Corredor Mediterráneo. Esta infraestructura será un referente para un aparcamiento seguro y protegido en la Región de Murcia y en el sureste de España. Contará con 415 plazas de aparcamiento para vehículos pesados de transporte de mercancías y una superficie de 8,4 ha, contará con zona de los vehículos de transporte de mercancías en general, vehículos refrigerados, vehículos inflamables y vehículos peligrosos no inflamables.

La Consejería de Fomento e Infraestructuras, también es coordinador de proyectos anteriores, relacionados con la zona de actividad logística asociada para la integración del transporte de mercancías por carretera y ferrocarril (ZAL de Murcia)», financiados por la Unión Europea a través, entre otros, del programa MCE (acción CEF 2014-ES-TM-0253-S). A través de éstos se están desarrollando los principales instrumentos urbanísticos para el desarrollo de la Zona de Actividad Logística y la Terminal Intermodal de Murcia.

Considerando que la ayuda total asignada a la Comunidad Autónoma de Murcia para la ejecución del citado proyecto es de 4 957 691.00 euros, de los

Plaza de Santoña, 6 30071 – Murcia. www.carm.es/cpt/

9 915 383.00 euros de presupuesto total del proyecto, y teniendo en cuenta la importancia y magnitud del mismo se estima de gran importancia que se proceda a la suscripción del Acuerdo de Subvención con la Agencia Ejecutiva Europea de Clima, Infraestructuras y Medio Ambiente.

En virtud de lo establecido en el artículo 22.35 de la Ley 6/2004, de 28 de diciembre, del Estatuto del Presidente y del Consejo de Gobierno de La Región de Murcia, el Consejo de Gobierno ostenta la competencia para la autorización de la suscripción del citado Acuerdo de Subvención.

El órgano administrativo proponente es la Directora General de Movilidad y Transportes con base en las competencias que ostenta en materia de Movilidad y Logística, de acuerdo con lo dispuesto en el Decreto de Reorganización de la Administración Regional 31/2023 de 14 de septiembre y los artículos 2 y 7 del Decreto del Consejo de Gobierno 244/2023, de 22 de septiembre, por el que se establecen los Órganos Directivos de la Consejería de Fomento e Infraestructuras.

En virtud de cuanto antecede formulamos al Excelentísimo Señor Consejero de Fomento e Infraestructuras la siguiente,

#### **PROPUESTA**

Elevar al Consejo de Gobierno, para su aprobación, propuesta de Acuerdo por el que se autorice al Consejero de Fomento e Infraestructuras para la suscripción del Acuerdo de subvención correspondiente a la convocatoria CEF-T-2022-SAFEMOBGEN, asumiendo con ello el compromiso de ejecutar la acción descrita en el acuerdo y recibir la subvención concedida para ello.

# LA DIRECTORA GENERAL DE MOVILIDAD Y TRANSPORTES María Dolores Solana Guillén

# Región de Murcia Consejería de Fomento e Infraestructuras

#### N. Ref.- Transportes 8/2023

Asunto.- Borrador de "Propuesta de Acuerdo al Consejo de Gobierno relativo al Acuerdo de Subvención Proyecto 101122631-22-ES-TG-MURCIASAFETRUCKS, entre la Consejería de Fomento e Infraestructuras(CARM) PIC 907305409 y la Agencia Ejecutiva Europea en materia de Clima, Infraestructuras y Medio Ambiente (CINEA), en virtud de las competencias delegadas de la Comisión Europea".

En relación al asunto referenciado, de conformidad con el encargo recibido, esta Técnica Consultora informa:

#### **ANTECEDENTE DE HECHO**

Se recibe expediente en relación con el referido borrador de propuesta de Acuerdo, en el mismo constan los siguientes documentos:

- Borrador de Propuesta de elevación de Acuerdo a Consejo de Gobierno.
- 2. Acuerdo de Subvención y sus correspondientes anexos, en inglés y castellano.
- 3. Informe técnico que determina la idoneidad del proyecto para hacer factible su construcción y explotación.

#### **CONSIDERACIONES**

PRIMERA.- El Acuerdo que se pretende suscribir establece los derechos y obligaciones y las condiciones aplicables a la subvención concedida para la ejecución de la acción establecida en el mismo, por lo que nos encontramos ante el otorgamiento de una subvención por parte de CINEA a esta Consejería. Esta acción se refiere a la construcción de un Área de Estacionamiento Seguro

outenticidad puede ser contrastada accediendo a la siguiente dirección: https://sede.carm.es/verificardocumentos e introduciendo del código seguro de verificació

de Camiones (SSTPA), junto a la Red Principal, en el tramo Murcia-Almería del Corredor Mediterráneo. Esta infraestructura será un referente para un aparcamiento seguro y protegido en la Región de Murcia y en el sureste de España. Contará con 415 plazas de aparcamiento para vehículos pesados de transporte de mercancías y una superficie de 8,4 ha, contará con zona de los vehículos de transporte de mercancías en general, vehículos refrigerados, vehículos inflamables y vehículos peligrosos no inflamables. Contribuye al Proyecto Global que tiene como objetivo desarrollar la Terminal Intermodal de tráfico por carretera – tráfico ferroviario y la Zona de Actividades Logísticas (ZAL) de Murcia, cuyo objeto principal es establecer el Nodo Logístico de Murcia.

El proyecto detallado se incluye en el Anexo 1 del Acuerdo, y su duración estimada es de 25 meses, iniciándose el 1 de noviembre de 2023. Se incluyen asimismo los costes que se estiman para las diferentes partidas en este mismo anexo.

La Consejería de Fomento e Infraestructuras presentó el proyecto en cuestión en los plazos indicados por la convocatoria que se adjunta, siendo comunicado por parte de la agencia CINEA, como se desprende de la documentación del expediente, que el proyecto presentado ha sido seleccionado y se invita a la Consejería de Fomento a firmar el Acuerdo de otorgamiento de subvención, conteniendo las obligaciones y derechos de cada una de las partes.

**SEGUNDA.-** En los distintos Anexos se describen detalladamente los trabajos a ejecutar que son la base del presupuesto tenido en cuenta a la hora de calcular la financiación.

Fundamentalmente con la firma del acuerdo la Consejería acepta la subvención y acuerda ejecutar bajo su responsabilidad el proyecto de conformidad con el acuerdo.

En cuanto a los compromisos adquiridos por la Consejería de Fomento e Infraestructuras, como beneficiaria, se determinan en el Capítulo 4, artículo 7,



fundamentalmente ya que se establece que debe disponer de los recursos adecuados para ejecutar la acción. La Consejería será plenamente responsable ante la autoridad otorgante de la ejecución del proyecto y del cumplimiento de todas sus obligaciones. Se citan expresamente a lo largo del articulado otros deberes relativos a la ética y a una ingente tarea de información a la CINEA en cuanto a la ejecución del proyecto. Se contienen obligaciones genéricas en cuanto a conflictos de intereses, comunicación y visibilidad del proyecto, obligaciones de información durante la ejecución, controles y auditorias de la misma, posibilidad de suspensión del acuerdo, regulación de la fuerza mayor que impida el cumplimiento de las obligaciones...En contraposición a ello, si la autoridad otorgante (CINEA) no paga dentro de los plazos de pago establecidos, la beneficiaria tiene derecho al cobro de intereses de demora.

La ayuda total asignada a la Comunidad Autónoma de Murcia, supone un porcentaje del 50% como máximo del presupuesto total de la actuación, determinándose en este punto del procedimiento según el presupuesto que se adjunta al proyecto, un montante total de 4.957.691,50 euros. El importe total presupuestado es de 9.915.383 euros.

Finalmente se dispone que el Acuerdo se somete al Derecho de la UE, complementándolo si es necesario por el Derecho Belga, Apartado 4.3.1, sometiéndose a la Corta de Justicia de acuerdo con el artículo 272 del Tratado de Funcionamiento de la Unión Europea.

**TERCERA.-** Se entiende pertinente la elevación de esta propuesta al Consejo de Gobierno, ya que de acuerdo con el artículo 22.35 de la ley 6/2004 de 28 de diciembre es competencia de este órgano conocer de los asuntos que por su importancia o interés para la Comunidad Autónoma convenga que sean objeto de deliberación o acuerdo por parte del mismo.

La propuesta pretende la autorización al Consejero de Fomento e Infraestructuras para suscribir un acuerdo que implica una importante recepción de ingresos y que supone como contrapartida la obligación de ejecución del



proyecto que se detalla, presentado por la Consejería, y que necesitará de las autorizaciones (de tipo económico y jurídico) oportunas, en su caso, en el momento en que se inicie la ejecución del mismo. Además de lo anterior se entiende oportuno como consecuencia de la obligación económica que se adquiere y la relevancia económica de la misma, en relación con las obligaciones de estabilidad presupuestaria, que sea consultada la Subdirección General de Presupuestos.

La Consejería de Fomento e Infraestructuras tiene asignadas las competencias que le corresponden a la Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia en materia de transportes, movilidad y logística, entre otras, de acuerdo con el Decreto del Presidente 31/2023, de 14 de septiembre, de reorganización de la Administración Regional, en concordancia con el Decreto nº 244/2023, de 22 de septiembre de 2023, por el que se establecen los Órganos Directivos de la Consejería de Fomento e Infraestructuras.

**CUARTA.-** Respecto del procedimiento, se debe emitir informe por el Servicio Jurídico de la Secretaría General, de acuerdo con lo preceptuado en el artículo 8.1 c) del Decreto 206/2022, de 27 de noviembre, por el que se establece la estructura orgánica de esta Consejería.

#### CONCLUSIÓN

El contenido del borrador de la propuesta de Acuerdo al Consejo de Gobierno se estima adecuado y pertinente para la ejecución de la actuación propuesta, por lo que éste se *informa favorablemente*.

Es cuanto procede informar, salvo mejor criterio debidamente fundamentado.

LA TÉCNICA CONSULTORA

María Carmen Manuel Sánchez





### INFORME TÉCNICO SOBRE EL PROYECTO CONSTRUCTIVO DEL APARCAMIENTO SEGURO PARA CAMIONES DE LA ZAL DE MURCIA.

#### 1. Objeto del Proyecto.

El objeto de este PROYECTO CONSTRUCTIVO DEL APARCAMIENTO SEGURO PARA CAMIONES(SSTPA) DE LA ZAL DE MURCIA, responde a la necesidad de desarrollar e implantar un aparcamiento seguro y protegido de camiones dentro del ámbito de actuación del Programa de Actuación Territorial (PAT) de la Terminal Intermodal y Zona de Actividades Logísticas de Murcia (ZAL de Murcia-Medfood), y que pueda ser certificado con el nivel Oro (Gold, EU Parking), de acuerdo con el STUDY ON SAFE AND SECURE PARKING PLACES FOR TRUCKS.

Este proyecto ha sido redactado por encargo de la Consejería de Fomento e Infraestructuras de la Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia, y dirigido por el Ingeniero de Caminos, Canales y Puertos, D. Alfonso Muñoz. El mismo incluye el desarrollo completo de la actuación, con el detalle suficiente para hacer factible su construcción y explotación, de acuerdo a lo indicado en su Memoria.

#### 2. Descripción del Proyecto.

La actuación se ubica en el municipio de Murcia, a 8 kilómetros al suroeste de la cabecera municipal, dentro del ámbito del Programa de Actuación Territorial (PAT) de la Terminal Intermodal y Zona de Actividades Logísticas de Murcia (ZAL de Murcia-Medfood). El PAT, se encuentra situado próximo a la pedanía de Sangonera la Seca y el municipio de Alcantarilla por el norte; al sur se encuentra próximo con la pedanía de Sangonera la Verde; y al este, con el Centro Integrado de Transportes de Murcia y el parque empresarial Oeste (que formarán parte de la futura Ciudad Agroalimentaria y del Transporte de Murcia), y el polígono industrial Oeste (compartido por los municipios de Alcantarilla y Murcia).

Respecto a la Red de Carreteras del Estado, el Aparcamiento Seguro para Camiones (SSTPA), se encuentra situado a unos 4 kilómetros al sureste de la Autovía A-7, a unos 2,2 kilómetros al suroeste de la autovía MU-30, y a unos 2 kilómetros de la autovía MU-31.

Cuenta con una superficie de 8,4 Ha, y con una capacidad de 415 plazas de estacionamiento de camiones. Su único acceso será compartido con el de la futura Terminal Intermodal, a través de una glorieta situada próxima al perímetro oeste del ámbito del PAT, que contará con patas independientes para la SSTPA y para la Terminal, respectivamente.

Las características generales del aparcamiento son:

- 33.725 m2 de plataforma de aparcamiento.
- 28.037 m2 de viales.
- 415 plazas de aparcamiento para vehículos pesados:
  - Vehículos de mercancías general 290 ud.
  - Vehículos frigoríficos 42 ud.
  - Vehículos mercancías inflamables 18 ud.
  - · Vehículos peligrosos no inflamables 25 ud.





• Plazas con puntos de recarga de vehículos pesados eléctricos 40 ud.

Las medidas previstas en proyecto para la clasificación nivel Oro (Gold, EU Parking) son los siguientes:

Nivel de servicio obligatorio:

Red de saneamiento para usos higiénicos.

Instalaciones con baños y duchas para hombre y mujeres.

Red de agua potable.

Red eléctrica con posibilidad de conexión para uso personal.

Señalización para guiar el tráfico de forma segura.

Red Conexión a internet: mediante red Wifi.

Instalaciones de aperitivos y bebidas a la venta todos los días, las 24 horas.

#### -Perímetro:

Disuasivo visualmente para reconocer la zona de estacionamiento seguro: mediante señalización exterior con paneles informativos en carreteras.

Disuasión física para impedir el acceso no autorizado: mediante vallado perimetral.

Vigilancia y grabación continua por video.

Barrera física de altura >1,80 m.

Iluminación a 25 Lux.

Perímetro con cobertura por CCTV.

Medidas para prevenir daños involuntarios a las barreras: topes en plazas de aparcamiento.

Zona libre entre la barrera y el aparcamiento >1,00 m.

#### -Zona de Estacionamiento:

Carriles iluminados a 15 lux.

Carriles para vehículos y peatones señalizados: señalización vertical.

-Entrada / Salida:

Iluminación a 25 lux.

CCTV: registro de entrada de vehículos con reconocimiento de matrículas.

Caseta de control: debe resistir ataque externo (puerta cerrada), con acceso al interior mediante puerta metálica.

Barrera con protección de subescalada y sobreescalada y con semáforos.

Además de estas especificaciones de servicio de carácter obligatorio, dentro de las instalaciones del Aparcamiento Segura para Camiones (SSTPA), se han previsto los siguientes servicios, de carácter opcional, que pueden auditarse para garantizar información confiable, o que pertenecen a niveles de clasificación inferior al Oro: Área de recreo con mesas de pícnic.

Refugio contra la lluvia y el sol para personas.

#### 3. Presupuesto del Proyecto.

9.915.384,00 Euros (IVA excluido)





#### 4. Financiación del Proyecto.

El proyecto fue presentado a la convocatoria de la Iniciativa Mecanismo Conectar Europa de la Comisión Europea, CEF 2 Transport - Actions related to safe and secure mobility - General envelope (CEF-T-2022-SAFEMOBGEN), del año 2022, habiendo sido seleccionado, para ser perceptor de una cofinanciación del proyecto del 50 % (IVA excluido).

La DoH del Proyecto (Declaration of Honour), documento previo a la firma del Acuerdo de Subvención, fue firmada por el Consejero de Fomento e Infraestructuras, con fecha 17 de Julio de 2023.

Lo cual se informa para su conocimiento y efectos oportunos.

La Coordinadora de Proyectos CEF-2. Carmen Mª Sandoval Sánchez. (Fecha y firma al margen)



## EUROPEAN CLIMATE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT EXECUTIVE AGENCY (CINEA)

CINEA.B – Sustainable networks and investments **Head of Department** 

#### **GRANT AGREEMENT**

#### Project 101122631 — 22-ES-TG-MURCIA SAFE4TRUCKS

#### **PREAMBLE**

This Agreement ('the Agreement') is between the following parties:

#### on the one part,

the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

#### and

#### on the other part,

1. 'the coordinator':

**CONSEJERIA DE FOMENTO E INFRAESTRUCTURAS (CARM)**, PIC 907305409, established in PLAZA SANTONA 6, MURCIA 30071, Spain,

Unless otherwise specified, references to 'beneficiary' or 'beneficiaries' include the coordinator and affiliated entities (if any).

If only one beneficiary signs the grant agreement ('mono-beneficiary grant'), all provisions referring to the 'coordinator' or the 'beneficiaries' will be considered — mutatis mutandis — as referring to the beneficiary.

The parties referred to above have agreed to enter into the Agreement.

By signing the Agreement and the accession forms, the beneficiaries accept the grant and agree to implement the action under their own responsibility and in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

The Agreement is composed of:

Preamble

Terms and Conditions (including Data Sheet)

Annex 1 Description of the action<sup>1</sup>

Annex 2 Estimated budget for the action

Annex 2a Additional information on unit costs and contributions (if applicable)

Annex 3 Accession forms (if applicable)<sup>2</sup>

Annex 3a Declaration on joint and several liability of affiliated entities (if applicable)<sup>3</sup>

Annex 4 Model for the financial statements

Annex 5 Specific rules (if applicable)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Template published on <u>Portal Reference Documents</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Template published on <u>Portal Reference Documents</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Template published on <u>Portal Reference Documents</u>.

#### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

GRANT AGREI	EMENT	1
PREAMBLE		1
TERMS AND C	ONDITIONS	3
DATASHEET		8
CHAPTER 1 (	GENERAL	13
ARTIC	LE 1 — SUBJECT OF THE AGREEMENT	13
ARTIC	LE 2 — DEFINITIONS	13
CHAPTER 2	ACTION	14
ARTIC	LE 3 — ACTION	14
ARTIC	LE 4 — DURATION AND STARTING DATE	14
	GRANT	
ARTIC	LE 5 — GRANT	14
5.1	Form of grant	14
5.2	Maximum grant amount	
5.3	Funding rate.	15
5.4	Estimated budget, budget categories and forms of funding	
5.5	Budget flexibility	15
ARTIC	LE 6 — ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	
6.1	General eligibility conditions	16
6.2	Specific eligibility conditions for each budget category	
6.3	Ineligible costs and contributions.	
6.4	Consequences of non-compliance	23
CHAPTER 4 (	GRANT IMPLEMENTATION	23
	CONSORTIUM: BENEFICIARIES, AFFILIATED ENTITIES AND OTHER RTICIPANTS	23
ARTIC	LE 7 — BENEFICIARIES	23
ARTIC	LE 8 — AFFILIATED ENTITIES	25
ARTIC	LE 9 — OTHER PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED IN THE ACTION	25
9.1	Associated partners.	25
9.2	Third parties giving in-kind contributions to the action	25
9.3	Subcontractors	25

9.4	Recipients of financial support to third parties.	26
ARTICL	E 10 — PARTICIPANTS WITH SPECIAL STATUS	26
10.1	Non-EU participants	26
10.2	Participants which are international organisations.	26
10.3	Pillar-assessed participants.	27
SECTION 2	RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION	29
ARTICL	E 11 — PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION	29
11.1	Obligation to properly implement the action	29
11.2	Consequences of non-compliance.	29
ARTICL	E 12 — CONFLICT OF INTERESTS	29
12.1	Conflict of interests	29
12.2	Consequences of non-compliance.	30
ARTICL	E 13 — CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY	30
13.1	Sensitive information.	30
13.2	Classified information.	31
13.3	Consequences of non-compliance	31
ARTICL	E 14 — ETHICS AND VALUES	31
14.1	Ethics.	
14.2	Values	31
14.3	Consequences of non-compliance	31
ARTICL	E 15 — DATA PROTECTION	32
15.1	Data processing by the granting authority	32
15.2	Data processing by the beneficiaries.	32
15.3	Consequences of non-compliance.	32
ARTICL	E 16 — INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) — BACKGROUND AND RESULTS – ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE	
16.1	Background and access rights to background.	33
16.2	Ownership of results	33
16.3	Rights of use of the granting authority on materials, documents and information received for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes	33
16.4	Specific rules on IPR, results and background	34
16.5	Consequences of non-compliance	34
ARTICL	E 17 — COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY	34
17.1	Communication — Dissemination — Promoting the action	34
17.2	Visibility — European flag and funding statement	35
17.3	Quality of information — Disclaimer	35

17.4	Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules	36
17.5	Consequences of non-compliance	36
ARTICL	E 18 — SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION	36
18.1	Specific rules for carrying out the action.	36
18.2	Consequences of non-compliance	36
SECTION 3	GRANT ADMINISTRATION	36
ARTICL	E 19 — GENERAL INFORMATION OBLIGATIONS	36
19.1	Information requests	36
19.2	Participant Register data updates	36
19.3	Information about events and circumstances which impact the action	36
19.4	Consequences of non-compliance	37
ARTICL	E 20 — RECORD-KEEPING	37
20.1	Keeping records and supporting documents	37
20.2	Consequences of non-compliance	38
ARTICL	E 21 — REPORTING	38
21.1	Continuous reporting	38
21.2	Periodic reporting: Technical reports and financial statements	38
21.3	Currency for financial statements and conversion into euros.	39
21.4	Reporting language	40
21.5	Consequences of non-compliance	40
ARTICL	E 22 — PAYMENTS AND RECOVERIES — CALCULATION OF AMOUNTS DUE	40
22.1	Payments and payment arrangements	40
22.2	Recoveries	40
22.3	Amounts due	41
22.4	Enforced recovery	46
22.5	Consequences of non-compliance	46
ARTICL	E 23 — GUARANTEES	47
23.1	Prefinancing guarantee.	47
23.2	Consequences of non-compliance	47
ARTICL	E 24 — CERTIFICATES	47
24.1	Operational verification report (OVR)	48
24.2	Certificate on the financial statements (CFS)	48
24.3	Certificate on the compliance of usual cost accounting practices (CoMUC)	48
24.4	Systems and process audit (SPA)	49
24.5	Consequences of non-compliance	49

ARTICL	E 25 — CHECKS, REVIEWS, AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS — EXTENSION OF FINDINGS	49
25.1	Granting authority checks, reviews and audits	49
25.2	European Commission checks, reviews and audits in grants of other granting authorities	50
25.3	Access to records for assessing simplified forms of funding	50
25.4	OLAF, EPPO and ECA audits and investigations	51
25.5	Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations — Extension of results of reviews, audits or investigations	51
25.6	Consequences of non-compliance	52
ARTICL	E 26 — IMPACT EVALUATIONS	52
26.1	Impact evaluation	. 53
26.2	Consequences of non-compliance	53
CHAPTER 5 CC	ONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE	53
SECTION 1	REJECTIONS AND GRANT REDUCTION	53
ARTICL	E 27 — REJECTION OF COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	53
27.1	Conditions	53
27.2	Procedure	53
27.3	Effects	53
ARTICL	E 28 — GRANT REDUCTION	54
28.1	Conditions	54
28.2	Procedure	54
28.3	Effects	54
SECTION 2	SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION	54
ARTICL	E 29 — PAYMENT DEADLINE SUSPENSION	54
29.1	Conditions	54
29.2	Procedure	55
ARTICL	E 30 — PAYMENT SUSPENSION	55
30.1	Conditions	55
30.2	Procedure	56
ARTICL	E 31 — GRANT AGREEMENT SUSPENSION	56
31.1	Consortium-requested GA suspension.	56
31.2	EU-initiated GA suspension	57
ARTICL	E 32 — GRANT AGREEMENT OR BENEFICIARY TERMINATION	58
32.1	Consortium-requested GA termination	58
32.2	Consortium-requested beneficiary termination.	
32.3	EU-initiated GA or beneficiary termination.	60

SECTION 3 OTHER CONSEQUENCES: DAMAGES AND ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS	63
ARTICLE 33 — DAMAGES	63
33.1 Liability of the granting authority	63
33.2 Liability of the beneficiaries	64
ARTICLE 34 — ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS AND OTHER MEASURES	64
SECTION 4 FORCE MAJEURE	64
ARTICLE 35 — FORCE MAJEURE	64
CHAPTER 6 FINAL PROVISIONS	64
ARTICLE 36 — COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES	64
36.1 Forms and means of communication — Electronic management	64
36.2 Date of communication	65
36.3 Addresses for communication	65
ARTICLE 37 — INTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENT	65
ARTICLE 38 — CALCULATION OF PERIODS AND DEADLINES	66
ARTICLE 39 — AMENDMENTS	66
39.1 Conditions	
39.2 Procedure	66
ARTICLE 40 — ACCESSION AND ADDITION OF NEW BENEFICIARIES	67
40.1 Accession of the beneficiaries mentioned in the Preamble	67
40.2 Addition of new beneficiaries	67
ARTICLE 41 — TRANSFER OF THE AGREEMENT	67
ARTICLE 42 — ASSIGNMENTS OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT AGAINST THE GRANTING AUTHORITY	67
ARTICLE 43 — APPLICABLE LAW AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES	68
43.1 Applicable law	68
43.2 Dispute settlement	68
ARTICLE 44 — ENTRY INTO FORCE	68

#### **DATA SHEET**

#### 1. General data

#### Project summary:

#### Project summary

The objective of the project is the construction of a Secure Truck Parking Area (SSTPA), next to the Core Network, in the Murcia-Almeria section of the Mediterranean Corridor. This infrastructure will be a benchmark for safe and secure parking in the Region of Murcia and in the southeast of Spain. It will have 415 parking spaces for heavy goods vehicles and a surface area of 8.4 ha, and zoning the site for general goods vehicles, Frigerated vehicles, flammable vehicles, and non-flammable hazardous vehicles. The project aims to improve freight parking capacity in south-eastern Spain and to address the growing challenges related to safety and unattractive working conditions leading to driver shortages and an ageing workforce. Therefore, the SSTPA has been designed to be certified at Gold level (EU Parking), according to the EU Standard for Safe and Secure Truck Parking Areas.

#### Keywords:

SSTPA, Intermodal Terminal

Project number: 101122631

Project name: Safe Parking for Trucks (SSTPA) in the LAA of Murcia

Project acronym: 22-ES-TG-MURCIA SAFE4TRUCKS

Call: CEF-T-2022-SAFEMOBGEN

Topic: CEF-T-2022-SAFEMOBGEN-PARKINGS-WORKS

Type of action: CEF Infrastructure Projects

Granting authority: European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency

Grant managed through EU Funding & Tenders Portal: Yes (eGrants)

Project starting date: fixed date: 1 November 2023

Project end date: 30 November 2025

Project duration: 25 months

Consortium agreement: Yes

#### 2. Participants

#### List of participants:

N°	Role	Short name	Legal name		PIC	Total eligible costs (BEN and AE)	Max grant amount
1	COO	CARM	CONSEJERIA DE FOMENTO E INFRAESTRUCTURAS	ES	907305409	9 915 383.00	4 957 691.00
			9 915 383.00	4 957 691.00			

#### **Coordinator:**

- CONSEJERIA DE FOMENTO E INFRAESTRUCTURAS (CARM)

#### 3. Grant

#### Maximum grant amount, total estimated eligible costs and contributions and funding rate:

Total eligible costs (BEN and AE)	S S		Maximum grant amount (award decision)	
9 915 383.00	70, 50, 0	4 957 691.00	4 957 691.00	

Grant form: Budget-based

Grant mode: Action grant

#### **Budget categories/activity types:**

- A. Personnel costs
  - A.1 Employees, A.2 Natural persons under direct contract, A.3 Seconded persons
  - A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries
- B. Subcontracting costs
- C. Purchase costs
  - C.1 Travel and subsistence
  - C.2 Equipment
  - C.3 Other goods, works and services
- D. Other cost categories
  - D.1 Financial support to third parties
  - D.2 Studies
  - D.3 Synergetic elements
  - D.4 Works in outermost regions
  - D.5 Land purchase
- E. Indirect costs

#### **Cost eligibility options:**

- Standard supplementary payments
- Average personnel costs (unit cost according to usual cost accounting practices)
- Country restrictions for subcontracting costs
- Travel and subsistence:
  - Travel: Actual costs
  - Accommodation: Actual costs
  - Subsistence: Actual costs
- Equipment: full costs only
- Costs for providing financial support to third parties (actual cost; max amount for each recipient: EUR 60 000.00)
- Indirect cost flat-rate: 0% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteers costs and exempted specific cost categories, if any)
- VAT: No
- Country restrictions for eligible costs
- Other ineligible costs

Budget flexibility: Yes (no flexibility cap)

#### 4. Reporting, payments and recoveries

#### **4.1 Continuous reporting** (art 21)

Deliverables: see Funding & Tenders Portal Continuous Reporting tool

#### 4.2 Periodic reporting and payments

Reporting and payment schedule (art 21, 22):

Reporting					Payments	
Reporting periods			Туре	Deadline	Туре	Deadline (time to pay)
RP No	Month from	Month to				
					Initial prefinancing	30 days from entry into force/ financial guarantee (if required) – whichever is the latest
1	1	25	Periodic report	60 days after end of reporting period	Final payment	90 days from receiving periodic report

#### Prefinancing payments and guarantees:

Prefinancing p	payment	Prefinancing guarantee			
Туре	Amount	Guarantee Division per participant			
Prefinancing 1 (initial)	2 478 845.93	n/a	1 - CARM	n/a	

#### Reporting and payment modalities (art 21, 22):

Mutual Insurance Mechanism (MIM): No

Restrictions on distribution of initial prefinancing: The prefinancing may be distributed only if the minimum number of beneficiaries set out in the call condititions (if any) have acceded to the Agreement and only to beneficiaries that have acceded.

Interim payment ceiling (if any): 90% of the maximum grant amount

No-profit rule: Yes

Late payment interest: ECB + 3.5%

Bank account for payments:

ES4600496660712516026789

Conversion into euros: Double conversion

Reporting language: Language of the Agreement

4.3 Certificates (art 24):

Certificates on the financial statements (CFS):

Conditions:

Schedule: interim/final payment, if threshold is reached

Standard threshold (beneficiary-level):

- financial statement: requested EU contribution to costs ≥ EUR 325 000.00

#### 4.4 Recoveries (art 22)

#### First-line liability for recoveries:

Beneficiary termination: Beneficiary concerned

Final payment: Coordinator

After final payment: Beneficiary concerned

#### Joint and several liability for enforced recoveries (in case of non-payment):

Limited joint and several liability of other beneficiaries — up to the maximum grant amount of the beneficiary

Joint and several liability of affiliated entities — n/a

#### 5. Consequences of non-compliance, applicable law & dispute settlement forum

#### **Suspension and termination:**

Additional suspension grounds (art 31)

Additional termination grounds (art 32)

#### Applicable law (art 43):

Standard applicable law regime: EU law + law of Belgium

#### **Dispute settlement forum** (art 43):

Standard dispute settlement forum:

EU beneficiaries: EU General Court + EU Court of Justice (on appeal)

Non-EU beneficiaries: Courts of Brussels, Belgium (unless an international agreement provides for the enforceability of EU court judgements)

#### 6. Other

#### Specific rules (Annex 5): Yes

#### Standard time-limits after project end:

Confidentiality (for X years after final payment): 5

Record-keeping (for X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

Reviews (up to X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

Audits (up to X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

Extension of findings from other grants to this grant (no later than X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

Impact evaluation (up to X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)



#### CHAPTER 1 GENERAL

#### ARTICLE 1 — SUBJECT OF THE AGREEMENT

This Agreement sets out the rights and obligations and terms and conditions applicable to the grant awarded for the implementation of the action set out in Chapter 2.

#### ARTICLE 2 — DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Agreement, the following definitions apply:

- Actions The project which is being funded in the context of this Agreement.
- Grant The grant awarded in the context of this Agreement.
- EU grants Grants awarded by EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies (including EU executive agencies, EU regulatory agencies, EDA, joint undertakings, etc.).
- Participants Entities participating in the action as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties.
- Beneficiaries (BEN) The signatories of this Agreement (either directly or through an accession form).
- Affiliated entities (AE) Entities affiliated to a beneficiary within the meaning of Article 187 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046<sup>4</sup> which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries (obligation to implement action tasks and right to charge costs and claim contributions).
- Associated partners (AP) Entities which participate in the action, but without the right to charge costs or claim contributions.
- Purchases Contracts for goods, works or services needed to carry out the action (e.g. equipment, consumables and supplies) but which are not part of the action tasks (see Annex 1).
- Subcontracting Contracts for goods, works or services that are part of the action tasks (see Annex 1).

In-kind contributions — In-kind contributions within the meaning of Article 2(36) of EU Financial

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> For the definition, see Article 187 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 ('EU Financial Regulation') (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1): "affiliated entities [are]:

<sup>(</sup>a) entities that form a sole beneficiary [(i.e. where an entity is formed of several entities that satisfy the criteria for being awarded a grant, including where the entity is specifically established for the purpose of implementing an action to be financed by a grant)];

<sup>(</sup>b) entities that satisfy the eligibility criteria and that do not fall within one of the situations referred to in Article 136(1) and 141(1) and that have a link with the beneficiary, in particular a legal or capital link, which is neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation".

Regulation 2018/1046, i.e. non-financial resources made available free of charge by third parties.

- Fraud Fraud within the meaning of Article 3 of EU Directive 2017/1371<sup>5</sup> and Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 July 1995<sup>6</sup>, as well as any other wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain.
- Irregularities Any type of breach (regulatory or contractual) which could impact the EU financial interests, including irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of EU Regulation 2988/95<sup>7</sup>.
- Grave professional misconduct Any type of unacceptable or improper behaviour in exercising one's profession, especially by employees, including grave professional misconduct within the meaning of Article 136(1)(c) of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.
- Applicable EU, international and national law Any legal acts or other (binding or non-binding) rules and guidance in the area concerned.
- Portal EU Funding & Tenders Portal; electronic portal and exchange system managed by the European Commission and used by itself and other EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies for the management of their funding programmes (grants, procurements, prizes, etc.).

#### **CHAPTER 2 ACTION**

#### ARTICLE 3 — ACTION

The grant is awarded for the action 101122631 — 22-ES-TG-MURCIA SAFE4TRUCKS ('action'), as described in Annex 1.

#### ARTICLE 4 — DURATION AND STARTING DATE

The duration and the starting date of the action are set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 1).

#### **CHAPTER 3** GRANT

#### ARTICLE 5 — GRANT

#### 5.1 Form of grant

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2017 on the fight against fraud to the Union's financial interests by means of criminal law (OJ L 198, 28.7.2017, p. 29).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> OJ C 316, 27.11.1995, p. 48.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1).

The grant is an action grant<sup>8</sup> which takes the form of a budget-based mixed actual cost grant (i.e. a grant based on actual costs incurred, but which may also include other forms of funding, such as unit costs or contributions, flat-rate costs or contributions, lump sum costs or contributions or financing not linked to costs).

#### 5.2 Maximum grant amount

The maximum grant amount is set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 3) and in the estimated budget (Annex 2).

#### 5.3 Funding rate

The funding rate for costs is 0% of the eligible costs for studies (if any), 70% of the eligible costs for works in outermost regions (if any) and 50% of the eligible costs for the other cost categories.

Contributions are not subject to any funding rate.

#### 5.4 Estimated budget, budget categories and forms of funding

The estimated budget for the action is set out in Annex 2.

It contains the estimated eligible costs and contributions for the action, broken down by participant and budget category.

Annex 2 also shows the types of costs and contributions (forms of funding)<sup>9</sup> to be used for each budget category.

If unit costs or contributions are used, the details on the calculation will be explained in Annex 2a.

#### 5.5 Budget flexibility

The budget breakdown may be adjusted — without an amendment (see Article 39) — by transfers (between participants and budget categories), as long as this does not imply any substantive or important change to the description of the action in Annex 1.

#### However:

- changes to the budget category for volunteers (if used) always require an amendment
- changes to budget categories with lump sums costs or contributions (if used; including financing not linked to costs) always require an amendment
- changes to budget categories with higher funding rates or budget ceilings (if used) always require an amendment
- addition of amounts for subcontracts not provided for in Annex 1 either require an amendment or simplified approval in accordance with Article 6.2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> For the definition, see Article 180(2)(a) EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046: 'action grant' means an EU grant to finance "an action intended to help achieve a Union policy objective".

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> See Article 125 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

- other changes require an amendment or simplified approval, if specifically provided for in Article 6.2
- flexibility caps: not applicable.

#### ARTICLE 6 — ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

In order to be eligible, costs and contributions must meet the **eligibility** conditions set out in this Article.

#### 6.1 General eligibility conditions

The **general eligibility conditions** are the following:

- (a) for actual costs:
  - (i) they must be actually incurred by the beneficiary
  - (ii) they must be incurred in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of costs relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be incurred afterwards; see Article 21)
  - (iii) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2
  - (iv) they must be incurred in connection with the action as described in Annex 1 and necessary for its implementation
  - (v) they must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular recorded in the beneficiary's accounts in accordance with the accounting standards applicable in the country where the beneficiary is established and with the beneficiary's usual cost accounting practices
  - (vi) they must comply with the applicable national law on taxes, labour and social security and
  - (vii) they must be reasonable, justified and must comply with the principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency
- (b) for unit costs or contributions (if any):
  - (i) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2
  - (ii) the units must:
    - be actually used or produced by the beneficiary in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of units relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be used or produced afterwards; see Article 21)
    - be necessary for the implementation of the action and
  - (iii) the number of units must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular supported by records and documentation (see Article 20)

- (c) for flat-rate costs or contributions (if any):
  - (i) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2
  - (ii) the costs or contributions to which the flat-rate is applied must:
    - be eligible
    - relate to the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of costs or contributions relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be incurred afterwards; see Article 21)
- (d) for lump sum costs or contributions (if any):
  - (i) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2
  - (ii) the work must be properly implemented by the beneficiary in accordance with Annex 1
  - (iii) the deliverables/outputs must be achieved in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of deliverables/outputs relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be achieved afterwards; see Article 21)
- (e) for unit, flat-rate or lump sum costs or contributions according to usual cost accounting practices (if any):
  - (i) they must fulfil the general eligibility conditions for the type of cost concerned
  - (ii) the cost accounting practices must be applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding
- (f) for financing not linked to costs (if any): the results must be achieved or the conditions must be fulfilled as described in Annex 1.

In addition, for direct cost categories (e.g. personnel, travel & subsistence, subcontracting and other direct costs) only costs that are directly linked to the action implementation and can therefore be attributed to it directly are eligible. They must not include any indirect costs (i.e. costs that are only indirectly linked to the action, e.g. via cost drivers).

#### 6.2 Specific eligibility conditions for each budget category

For each budget category, the **specific eligibility conditions** are as follows:

#### **Direct costs**

#### A. Personnel costs

**A.1** Costs for employees (or equivalent) are eligible as personnel costs if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are related to personnel working for the beneficiary under an employment contract (or equivalent appointing act) and assigned to the action.

They must be limited to salaries, social security contributions, taxes and other costs linked to the

remuneration, if they arise from national law or the employment contract (or equivalent appointing act) and be calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred, in accordance with the following method:

```
{daily rate for the person
multiplied by
number of day-equivalents worked on the action (rounded up or down to the nearest half-day)}.
```

The daily rate must be calculated as:

```
{annual personnel costs for the person divided by 215}.
```

The number of day-equivalents declared for a person must be identifiable and verifiable (see Article 20).

The total number of day-equivalents declared in EU grants, for a person for a year, cannot be higher than 215.

The personnel costs may also include supplementary payments for personnel assigned to the action (including payments on the basis of supplementary contracts regardless of their nature), if:

- it is part of the beneficiary's usual remuneration practices and is paid in a consistent manner whenever the same kind of work or expertise is required
- the criteria used to calculate the supplementary payments are objective and generally applied by the beneficiary, regardless of the source of funding used.

If the beneficiary uses average personnel costs (unit cost according to usual cost accounting practices), the personnel costs must fulfil the general eligibility conditions for such unit costs and the daily rate must be calculated:

- using the actual personnel costs recorded in the beneficiary's accounts and excluding any costs which are ineligible or already included in other budget categories; the actual personnel costs may be adjusted on the basis of budgeted or estimated elements, if they are relevant for calculating the personnel costs, reasonable and correspond to objective and verifiable information

and

- according to usual cost accounting practices which are applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding.

**A.2** and **A.3** Costs for natural persons working under a direct contract other than an employment contract and costs for seconded persons by a third party against payment are also eligible as personnel costs, if they are assigned to the action, fulfil the general eligibility conditions and:

(a) work under conditions similar to those of an employee (in particular regarding the way the work is organised, the tasks that are performed and the premises where they are performed) and

(b) the result of the work belongs to the beneficiary (unless agreed otherwise).

They must be calculated on the basis of a rate which corresponds to the costs actually incurred for the direct contract or secondment and must not be significantly different from those for personnel performing similar tasks under an employment contract with the beneficiary.

**A.4** The work of **SME owners** for the action (i.e. owners of beneficiaries that are small and medium-sized enterprises<sup>10</sup> not receiving a salary) or **natural person beneficiaries** (i.e. beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary) may be declared as personnel costs, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are calculated as unit costs in accordance with the method set out in Annex 2a.

#### **B.** Subcontracting costs

**Subcontracting costs** for the action (including related duties, taxes and charges) are eligible, if they are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred, fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are awarded using the beneficiary's usual purchasing practices — provided these ensure subcontracts with best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and that there is no conflict of interests (see Article 12).

Beneficiaries that are 'contracting authorities/entities' within the meaning of the EU Directives on public procurement must also comply with the applicable national law on public procurement.

The beneficiaries must ensure that the subcontracted work is performed in the eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions — unless otherwise approved by the granting authority.

The tasks to be subcontracted and the estimated cost for each subcontract must be set out in Annex 1 and the total estimated costs of subcontracting per beneficiary must be set out in Annex 2 (or may be approved ex post in the periodic report, if the use of subcontracting does not entail changes to the Agreement which would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants; 'simplified approval procedure').

#### C. Purchase costs

**Purchase costs** for the action (including related duties, taxes and charges) are eligible if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are bought using the beneficiary's usual purchasing practices — provided these ensure purchases with best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and that there is no conflict of interests (see Article 12).

Beneficiaries that are 'contracting authorities/entities' within the meaning of the EU Directives on public procurement must also comply with the applicable national law on public procurement.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> For the definition, see Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC: micro, small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) are enterprises

engaged in an economic activity, irrespective of their legal form (including, in particular, self- employed persons
and family businesses engaged in craft or other activities, and partnerships or associations regularly engaged
in an economic activity) and

employing fewer than 250 persons (expressed in 'annual working units' as defined in Article 5 of the Recommendation) and which have an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million.

#### C.1 Travel and subsistence

Purchases for **travel**, **accommodation** and **subsistence** must be calculated as follows:

- travel: on the basis of the costs actually incurred and in line with the beneficiary's usual practices on travel
- accommodation: on the basis of the costs actually incurred and in line with the beneficiary's usual practices on travel
- subsistence: on the basis of the costs actually incurred and in line with the beneficiary's usual practices on travel .

#### **C.2** Equipment

Purchases of **equipment**, **infrastructure or other assets** specifically for the action (or developed as part of the action tasks) may be declared as full capitalised costs if they fulfil the cost eligibility conditions applicable to their respective cost categories.

'Capitalised costs' means:

- costs incurred in the purchase or for the development of the equipment, infrastructure or other assets and
- which are recorded under a fixed asset account of the beneficiary in compliance with international accounting standards and the beneficiary's usual cost accounting practices.

If such equipment, infrastructure or other assets are rented or leased, full costs for **renting or leasing** are eligible, if they do not exceed the depreciation costs of similar equipment, infrastructure or assets and do not include any financing fees.

#### C.3 Other goods, works and services

Purchases of **other goods, works and services** must be calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred.

Such goods, works and services include, for instance, consumables and supplies, promotion, dissemination, protection of results, translations, publications, certificates and financial guarantees, if required under the Agreement.

#### D. Other cost categories

#### **D.1** Financial support to third parties

Costs for providing financial support to third parties (in the form of grants, prizes or similar forms of support; if any) are eligible, if and as declared eligible in the call conditions, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions, are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred and the support is implemented in accordance with the conditions set out in Annex 1.

These conditions must ensure objective and transparent selection procedures and include at least the following:

(a) for grants (or similar):

- (i) the maximum amount of financial support for each third party ('recipient'); this amount may not exceed the amount set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 3) or otherwise agreed with the granting authority
- (ii) the criteria for calculating the exact amount of the financial support
- (iii) the different types of activity that qualify for financial support, on the basis of a closed list
- (iv) the persons or categories of persons that will be supported and
- (v) the criteria and procedures for giving financial support
- (b) for prizes (or similar):
  - (i) the eligibility and award criteria
  - (ii) the amount of the prize and
  - (iii) the payment arrangements.

#### **D.2 Studies**

Costs for studies are eligible, if and as declared eligible in the call conditions, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions, are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred and comply with the conditions set out in Points A-C for the underlying types of costs (personnel, subcontracting, purchase).

# **D.3** Synergetic elements

Costs for synergetic elements related to another sector of the CEF Programme (transport, energy or digital) are eligible, if and as declared eligible in the call conditions, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions, are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred and allow to significantly improve the socio-economic, climate or environmental benefits of the action.

Such costs are eligible only up to 20% of the beneficiaries' total eligible costs.

# **D.4** Works in outermost regions

Costs for works in outermost regions are eligible, if and as declared eligible in the call conditions, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions, are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred, comply with the conditions set out in Points A-C for the underlying types of costs (personnel, subcontracting, purchase) and relate to works that are carried out in an outermost region within the meaning of Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)).

# **D.5** Land purchase

Costs for land purchase are eligible, if and as declared eligible in the call conditions, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred.

Such costs are eligible only up to 10% of the beneficiaries' total eligible costs.

#### **Indirect costs**

#### E. Indirect costs

**Indirect costs** will be reimbursed at the flat-rate of 0% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteers costs and exempted specific cost categories, if any).

#### **Contributions**

Not applicable

# 6.3 Ineligible costs and contributions

The following costs or contributions are **ineligible**:

- (a) costs or contributions that do not comply with the conditions set out above (Article 6.1 and 6.2), in particular:
  - (i) costs related to return on capital and dividends paid by a beneficiary
  - (ii) debt and debt service charges
  - (iii) provisions for future losses or debts
  - (iv) interest owed
  - (v) currency exchange losses
  - (vi) bank costs charged by the beneficiary's bank for transfers from the granting authority
  - (vii) excessive or reckless expenditure
  - (viii) VAT (always ineligible)
  - (ix) costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during grant agreement suspension (see Article 31)
  - (x) in-kind contributions by third parties
- (b) costs or contributions declared under other EU grants (or grants awarded by an EU Member State, non-EU country or other body implementing the EU budget), except for the following cases:
  - (i) Synergy actions: not applicable
  - (ii) if the action grant is combined with an operating grant<sup>11</sup> running during the same period and the beneficiary can demonstrate that the operating grant does not cover any (direct or indirect) costs of the action grant
- (c) costs or contributions for staff of a national (or regional/local) administration, for activities that are part of the administration's normal activities (i.e. not undertaken only because of the grant)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> For the definition, see Article 180(2)(b) of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046: '**operating grant**' means an EU grant to finance "the functioning of a body which has an objective forming part of and supporting an EU policy".

- (d) costs or contributions (especially travel and subsistence) for staff or representatives of EU institutions, bodies or agencies
- (e) other:
  - (i) costs or contributions for activities that do not take place in one of the eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions unless approved by the granting authority
  - (ii) costs or contributions declared specifically ineligible in the call conditions.

# 6.4 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary declares costs or contributions that are ineligible, they will be rejected (see Article 27).

This may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

# **CHAPTER 4 GRANT IMPLEMENTATION**

# SECTION 1 CONSORTIUM: BENEFICIARIES, AFFILIATED ENTITIES AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS

# ARTICLE 7 — BENEFICIARIES

The beneficiaries, as signatories of the Agreement, are fully responsible towards the granting authority for implementing it and for complying with all its obligations.

They must implement the Agreement to their best abilities, in good faith and in accordance with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

They must have the appropriate resources to implement the action and implement the action under their own responsibility and in accordance with Article 11. If they rely on affiliated entities or other participants (see Articles 8 and 9), they retain sole responsibility towards the granting authority and the other beneficiaries.

They are jointly responsible for the *technical* implementation of the action. If one of the beneficiaries fails to implement their part of the action, the other beneficiaries must ensure that this part is implemented by someone else (without being entitled to an increase of the maximum grant amount and subject to an amendment; see Article 39). The *financial* responsibility of each beneficiary in case of recoveries is governed by Article 22.

The beneficiaries (and their action) must remain eligible under the EU programme funding the grant for the entire duration of the action. Costs and contributions will be eligible only as long as the beneficiary and the action are eligible.

The internal roles and responsibilities of the beneficiaries are divided as follows:

- (a) Each beneficiary must:
  - (i) keep information stored in the Portal Participant Register up to date (see Article 19)

- (ii) inform the granting authority (and the other beneficiaries) immediately of any events or circumstances likely to affect significantly or delay the implementation of the action (see Article 19)
- (iii) submit to the coordinator in good time:
  - the prefinancing guarantees (if required; see Article 23)
  - the financial statements and certificates on the financial statements (CFS) (if required; see Articles 21 and 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3)
  - the contribution to the deliverables and technical reports (see Article 21)
  - any other documents or information required by the granting authority under the Agreement
- (iv) submit via the Portal data and information related to the participation of their affiliated entities
- (b) The coordinator must:
  - (i) monitor that the action is implemented properly (see Article 11)
  - (ii) act as the intermediary for all communications between the consortium and the granting authority, unless the Agreement or granting authority specifies otherwise, and in particular:
    - submit the prefinancing guarantees to the granting authority (if any)
    - request and review any documents or information required and verify their quality and completeness before passing them on to the granting authority
    - submit the deliverables and reports to the granting authority
    - inform the granting authority about the payments made to the other beneficiaries (report on the distribution of payments; if required, see Articles 22 and 32)
  - (iii) distribute the payments received from the granting authority to the other beneficiaries without unjustified delay (see Article 22).

The coordinator may not delegate or subcontract the above-mentioned tasks to any other beneficiary or third party (including affiliated entities).

However, coordinators which are public bodies may delegate the tasks set out in Point (b)(ii) last indent and (iii) above to entities with 'authorisation to administer' which they have created or which are controlled by or affiliated to them. In this case, the coordinator retains sole responsibility for the payments and for compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

Moreover, coordinators which are 'sole beneficiaries' 12 (or similar, such as European research

<sup>12</sup> For the definition, see Article 187(2) EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046: "Where several entities satisfy the criteria

infrastructure consortia (ERICs)) may delegate the tasks set out in Point (b)(i) to (iii) above to one of their members. The coordinator retains sole responsibility for compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

The beneficiaries must have **internal arrangements** regarding their operation and co-ordination, to ensure that the action is implemented properly.

If required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 1), these arrangements must be set out in a written **consortium agreement** between the beneficiaries, covering for instance:

- the internal organisation of the consortium
- the management of access to the Portal
- different distribution keys for the payments and financial responsibilities in case of recoveries (if any)
- additional rules on rights and obligations related to background and results (see Article 16)
- settlement of internal disputes
- liability, indemnification and confidentiality arrangements between the beneficiaries.

The internal arrangements must not contain any provision contrary to this Agreement.

# ARTICLE 8 — AFFILIATED ENTITIES

Not applicable

# ARTICLE 9 — OTHER PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED IN THE ACTION

# 9.1 Associated partners

Not applicable

# 9.2 Third parties giving in-kind contributions to the action

Other third parties may give in-kind contributions to the action (i.e. personnel, equipment, other goods, works and services, etc. which are free-of-charge), if necessary for the implementation.

Third parties giving in-kind contributions do not implement any action tasks. They may not charge costs or contributions to the action and the costs for the in-kind contributions are not eligible.

The third parties and their in-kind contributions should be set out in Annex 1.

# 9.3 Subcontractors

Subcontractors may participate in the action, if necessary for the implementation.

Subcontractors must implement their action tasks in accordance with Article 11. The costs for the

for being awarded a grant and together form one entity, that entity may be treated as the **sole beneficiary**, including where it is specifically established for the purpose of implementing the action financed by the grant."

subcontracted tasks (invoiced price from the subcontractor) are eligible and may be charged by the beneficiaries, under the conditions set out in Article 6. The costs will be included in Annex 2 as part of the beneficiaries' costs.

The beneficiaries must ensure that their contractual obligations under Articles 11 (proper implementation), 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping) also apply to the subcontractors.

The beneficiaries must ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the subcontractors.

# 9.4 Recipients of financial support to third parties

If the action includes providing financial support to third parties (e.g. grants, prizes or similar forms of support), the beneficiaries must ensure that their contractual obligations under Articles 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping)also apply to the third parties receiving the support (recipients).

The beneficiaries must also ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the recipients.

# ARTICLE 10 — PARTICIPANTS WITH SPECIAL STATUS

# 10.1 Non-EU participants

Participants which are established in a non-EU country (if any) undertake to comply with their obligations under the Agreement and:

- to respect general principles (including fundamental rights, values and ethical principles, environmental and labour standards, rules on classified information, intellectual property rights, visibility of funding and protection of personal data)
- for the submission of certificates under Article 24: to use qualified external auditors which are independent and comply with comparable standards as those set out in EU Directive 2006/43/EC<sup>13</sup>
- for the controls under Article 25: to allow for checks, reviews, audits and investigations (including on-the-spot checks, visits and inspections) by the bodies mentioned in that Article (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.).

Special rules on dispute settlement apply (see Data Sheet, Point 5).

# 10.2 Participants which are international organisations

Participants which are international organisations (IOs; if any) undertake to comply with their obligations under the Agreement and:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts or similar national regulations (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 87).

- to respect general principles (including fundamental rights, values and ethical principles, environmental and labour standards, rules on classified information, intellectual property rights, visibility of funding and protection of personal data)
- for the submission of certificates under Article 24: to use either independent public officers or external auditors which comply with comparable standards as those set out in EU Directive 2006/43/EC
- for the controls under Article 25: to allow for the checks, reviews, audits and investigations by the bodies mentioned in that Article, taking into account the specific agreements concluded by them and the EU (if any).

For such participants, nothing in the Agreement will be interpreted as a waiver of their privileges or immunities, as accorded by their constituent documents or international law.

Special rules on applicable law and dispute settlement apply (see Article 43 and Data Sheet, Point 5).

# 10.3 Pillar-assessed participants

Pillar-assessed participants (if any) may rely on their own systems, rules and procedures, in so far as they have been positively assessed and do not call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants or beneficiaries.

'Pillar-assessment' means a review by the European Commission on the systems, rules and procedures which participants use for managing EU grants (in particular internal control system, accounting system, external audits, financing of third parties, rules on recovery and exclusion, information on recipients and protection of personal data; see Article 154 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046).

Participants with a positive pillar assessment may rely on their own systems, rules and procedures, in particular for:

- record-keeping (Article 20): may be done in accordance with internal standards, rules and procedures
- currency conversion for financial statements (Article 21): may be done in accordance with usual accounting practices
- guarantees (Article 23): for public law bodies, prefinancing guarantees are not needed
- certificates (Article 24):
  - certificates on the financial statements (CFS): may be provided by their regular internal or external auditors and in accordance with their internal financial regulations and procedures
  - certificates on usual accounting practices (CoMUC): are not needed if those practices are covered by an ex-ante assessment

and use the following specific rules, for:

- recoveries (Article 22): in case of financial support to third parties, there will be no recovery if the participant has done everything possible to retrieve the undue amounts from the third party

receiving the support (including legal proceedings) and non-recovery is not due to an error or negligence on its part

- checks, reviews, audits and investigations by the EU (Article 25): will be conducted taking into account the rules and procedures specifically agreed between them and the framework agreement (if any)
- impact evaluation (Article 26): will be conducted in accordance with the participant's internal rules and procedures and the framework agreement (if any)
- grant agreement suspension (Article 31): certain costs incurred during grant suspension are eligible (notably, minimum costs necessary for a possible resumption of the action and costs relating to contracts which were entered into before the pre-information letter was received and which could not reasonably be suspended, reallocated or terminated on legal grounds)
- grant agreement termination (Article 32): the final grant amount and final payment will be calculated taking into account also costs relating to contracts due for execution only after termination takes effect, if the contract was entered into before the pre-information letter was received and could not reasonably be terminated on legal grounds
- liability for damages (Article 33.2): the granting authority must be compensated for damage it sustains as a result of the implementation of the action or because the action was not implemented in full compliance with the Agreement only if the damage is due to an infringement of the participant's internal rules and procedures or due to a violation of third parties' rights by the participant or one of its employees or individual for whom the employees are responsible.

Participants whose pillar assessment covers procurement and granting procedures may also do purchases, subcontracting and financial support to third parties (Article 6.2) in accordance with their internal rules and procedures for purchases, subcontracting and financial support.

Participants whose pillar assessment covers data protection rules may rely on their internal standards, rules and procedures for data protection (Article 15).

The participants may however not rely on provisions which would breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants or beneficiaries or call into question the decision awarding the grant, such as in particular:

- eligibility (Article 6)
- consortium roles and set-up (Articles 7-9)
- security and ethics (Articles 13, 14)
- IPR (including background and results, access rights and rights of use), communication, dissemination and visibility (Articles 16 and 17)
- information obligation (Article 19)
- payment, reporting and amendments (Articles 21, 22 and 39)
- rejections, reductions, suspensions and terminations (Articles 27, 28, 29-32)

If the pillar assessment was subject to remedial measures, reliance on the internal systems, rules and procedures is subject to compliance with those remedial measures.

Participants whose assessment has not yet been updated to cover (the new rules on) data protection may rely on their internal systems, rules and procedures, provided that they ensure that personal data is:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject
- collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the data is processed and
- processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data.

Participants must inform the coordinator without delay of any changes to the systems, rules and procedures that were part of the pillar assessment. The coordinator must immediately inform the granting authority.

Pillar-assessed participants that have also concluded a framework agreement with the EU, may moreover — under the same conditions as those above (i.e. not call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants or beneficiaries) — rely on the provisions set out in that framework agreement.

# SECTION 2 RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION

# ARTICLE 11 — PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION

#### 11.1 Obligation to properly implement the action

The beneficiaries must implement the action as described in Annex 1 and in compliance with the provisions of the Agreement, the call conditions and all legal obligations under applicable EU, international and national law

# 11.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

# **ARTICLE 12 — CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

#### 12.1 Conflict of interests

The beneficiaries must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the Agreement could be compromised for reasons involving family, emotional life, political or national affinity, economic interest or any other direct or indirect interest ('conflict of interests').

They must formally notify the granting authority without delay of any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation.

The granting authority may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

# 12.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28) and the grant or the beneficiary may be terminated (see Article 32).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

# ARTICLE 13 — CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY

#### 13.1 Sensitive information

The parties must keep confidential any data, documents or other material (in any form) that is identified as sensitive in writing ('sensitive information') — during the implementation of the action and for at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6).

If a beneficiary requests, the granting authority may agree to keep such information confidential for a longer period.

Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, they may use sensitive information only to implement the Agreement.

The beneficiaries may disclose sensitive information to their personnel or other participants involved in the action only if they:

- (a) need to know it in order to implement the Agreement and
- (b) are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

The granting authority may disclose sensitive information to its staff and to other EU institutions and bodies.

It may moreover disclose sensitive information to third parties, if:

- (a) this is necessary to implement the Agreement or safeguard the EU financial interests and
- (b) the recipients of the information are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

The confidentiality obligations no longer apply if:

- (a) the disclosing party agrees to release the other party
- (b) the information becomes publicly available, without breaching any confidentiality obligation

(c) the disclosure of the sensitive information is required by EU, international or national law.

Specific confidentiality rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

#### 13.2 Classified information

The parties must handle classified information in accordance with the applicable EU, international or national law on classified information (in particular, Decision 2015/444<sup>14</sup> and its implementing rules).

Deliverables which contain classified information must be submitted according to special procedures agreed with the granting authority.

Action tasks involving classified information may be subcontracted only after explicit approval (in writing) from the granting authority.

Classified information may not be disclosed to any third party (including participants involved in the action implementation) without prior explicit written approval from the granting authority.

Specific security rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

# 13.3 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

# ARTICLE 14 — ETHICS AND VALUES

#### 14.1 Ethics

The action must be carried out in line with the highest ethical standards and the applicable EU, international and national law on ethical principles.

Specific ethics rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

# 14.2 Values

The beneficiaries must commit to and ensure the respect of basic EU values (such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of minorities).

Specific rules on values (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

# 14.3 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Commission Decision 2015/444/EC, Euratom of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

# **ARTICLE 15 — DATA PROTECTION**

#### 15.1 Data processing by the granting authority

Any personal data under the Agreement will be processed under the responsibility of the data controller of the granting authority in accordance with and for the purposes set out in the Portal Privacy Statement.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission, an EU regulatory or executive agency, joint undertaking or other EU body, the processing will be subject to Regulation 2018/1725<sup>15</sup>.

# 15.2 Data processing by the beneficiaries

The beneficiaries must process personal data under the Agreement in compliance with the applicable EU, international and national law on data protection (in particular, Regulation 2016/679<sup>16</sup>).

They must ensure that personal data is:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subjects
- collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the data is processed and
- processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the data.

The beneficiaries may grant their personnel access to personal data only if it is strictly necessary for implementing, managing and monitoring the Agreement. The beneficiaries must ensure that the personnel is under a confidentiality obligation.

The beneficiaries must inform the persons whose data are transferred to the granting authority and provide them with the Portal Privacy Statement.

# 15.3 Consequences of non-compliance

<sup>15</sup> Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC ('GDPR') (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1).

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

# ARTICLE 16 — INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) — BACKGROUND AND RESULTS —ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE

# 16.1 Background and access rights to background

The beneficiaries must give each other and the other participants access to the background identified as needed for implementing the action, subject to any specific rules in Annex 5.

'Background' means any data, know-how or information — whatever its form or nature (tangible or intangible), including any rights such as intellectual property rights — that is:

- (a) held by the beneficiaries before they acceded to the Agreement and
- (b) needed to implement the action or exploit the results.

If background is subject to rights of a third party, the beneficiary concerned must ensure that it is able to comply with its obligations under the Agreement.

# 16.2 Ownership of results

The granting authority does not obtain ownership of the results produced under the action.

'Results' means any tangible or intangible effect of the action, such as data, know-how or information, whatever its form or nature, whether or not it can be protected, as well as any rights attached to it, including intellectual property rights.

# 16.3 Rights of use of the granting authority on materials, documents and information received for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes

The granting authority has the right to use non-sensitive information relating to the action and materials and documents received from the beneficiaries (notably summaries for publication, deliverables, as well as any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material, in paper or electronic form) for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes — during the action or afterwards.

The right to use the beneficiaries' materials, documents and information is granted in the form of a royalty-free, non-exclusive and irrevocable licence, which includes the following rights:

- (a) **use for its own purposes** (in particular, making them available to persons working for the granting authority or any other EU service (including institutions, bodies, offices, agencies, etc.) or EU Member State institution or body; copying or reproducing them in whole or in part, in unlimited numbers; and communication through press information services)
- (b) **distribution to the public** (in particular, publication as hard copies and in electronic or digital format, publication on the internet, as a downloadable or non-downloadable file, broadcasting by any channel, public display or presentation, communicating through press information services, or inclusion in widely accessible databases or indexes)

(c) **editing or redrafting** (including shortening, summarising, inserting other elements (e.g. meta-data, legends, other graphic, visual, audio or text elements), extracting parts (e.g. audio or video files), dividing into parts, use in a compilation)

### (d) translation

- (e) **storage** in paper, electronic or other form
- (f) archiving, in line with applicable document-management rules
- (g) the right to authorise **third parties** to act on its behalf or sub-license to third parties the modes of use set out in Points (b), (c), (d) and (f), if needed for the information, communication and publicity activity of the granting authority
- (h) **processing**, analysing, aggregating the materials, documents and information received and **producing derivative works**.

The rights of use are granted for the whole duration of the industrial or intellectual property rights concerned

If materials or documents are subject to moral rights or third party rights (including intellectual property rights or rights of natural persons on their image and voice), the beneficiaries must ensure that they comply with their obligations under this Agreement (in particular, by obtaining the necessary licences and authorisations from the rights holders concerned).

Where applicable, the granting authority will insert the following information:

"© – [year] – [name of the copyright owner]. All rights reserved. Licensed to the [name of granting authority] under conditions."

# 16.4 Specific rules on IPR, results and background

Specific rules regarding intellectual property rights, results and background (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

# 16.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such a breach may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

# ARTICLE 17 — COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY

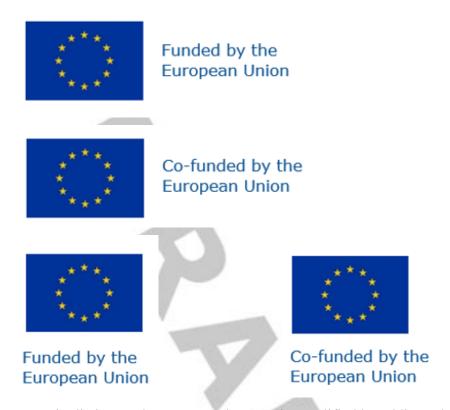
#### 17.1 Communication — Dissemination — Promoting the action

Unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority, the beneficiaries must promote the action and its results by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public), in accordance with Annex 1 and in a strategic, coherent and effective manner.

Before engaging in a communication or dissemination activity expected to have a major media impact, the beneficiaries must inform the granting authority.

# 17.2 Visibility — European flag and funding statement

Unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority, communication activities of the beneficiaries related to the action (including media relations, conferences, seminars, information material, such as brochures, leaflets, posters, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.), dissemination activities and any infrastructure, equipment, vehicles, supplies or major result funded by the grant must acknowledge EU support and display the European flag (emblem) and funding statement (translated into local languages, where appropriate):



The emblem must remain distinct and separate and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands or text.

Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EU support.

When displayed in association with other logos (e.g. of beneficiaries or sponsors), the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos.

For the purposes of their obligations under this Article, the beneficiaries may use the emblem without first obtaining approval from the granting authority. This does not, however, give them the right to exclusive use. Moreover, they may not appropriate the emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.

# 17.3 Quality of information — Disclaimer

Any communication or dissemination activity related to the action must use factually accurate information.

Moreover, it must indicate the following disclaimer (translated into local languages where appropriate):

"Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or [name of the granting authority]. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them."

# 17.4 Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules

Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

# 17.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

# ARTICLE 18 — SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION

# 18.1 Specific rules for carrying out the action

Specific rules for implementing the action (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

### **18.2** Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such a breach may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

# **SECTION 3 GRANT ADMINISTRATION**

# **ARTICLE 19 — GENERAL INFORMATION OBLIGATIONS**

# 19.1 Information requests

The beneficiaries must provide — during the action or afterwards and in accordance with Article 7 — any information requested in order to verify eligibility of the costs or contributions declared, proper implementation of the action and compliance with the other obligations under the Agreement.

The information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

#### 19.2 Participant Register data updates

The beneficiaries must keep — at all times, during the action or afterwards — their information stored in the Portal Participant Register up to date, in particular, their name, address, legal representatives, legal form and organisation type.

# 19.3 Information about events and circumstances which impact the action

The beneficiaries must immediately inform the granting authority (and the other beneficiaries) of any of the following:

- (a) **events** which are likely to affect or delay the implementation of the action or affect the EU's financial interests, in particular:
  - (i) changes in their legal, financial, technical, organisational or ownership situation (including changes linked to one of the exclusion grounds listed in the declaration of honour signed before grant signature)
  - (ii) linked action information: not applicable

# (b) circumstances affecting:

- (i) the decision to award the grant or
- (ii) compliance with requirements under the Agreement.

# 19.4 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

#### ARTICLE 20 — RECORD-KEEPING

# 20.1 Keeping records and supporting documents

The beneficiaries must — at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6) — keep records and other supporting documents to prove the proper implementation of the action in line with the accepted standards in the respective field (if any).

In addition, the beneficiaries must — for the same period — keep the following to justify the amounts declared:

- (a) for actual costs: adequate records and supporting documents to prove the costs declared (such as contracts, subcontracts, invoices and accounting records); in addition, the beneficiaries' usual accounting and internal control procedures must enable direct reconciliation between the amounts declared, the amounts recorded in their accounts and the amounts stated in the supporting documents
- (b) for flat-rate costs and contributions (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove the eligibility of the costs or contributions to which the flat-rate is applied
- (c) for the following simplified costs and contributions: the beneficiaries do not need to keep specific records on the actual costs incurred, but must keep:
  - (i) for unit costs and contributions (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove the number of units declared
  - (ii) for lump sum costs and contributions (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove proper implementation of the work as described in Annex 1
  - (iii) for financing not linked to costs (if any): adequate records and supporting documents

to prove the achievement of the results or the fulfilment of the conditions as described in Annex 1

(d) for unit, flat-rate and lump sum costs and contributions according to usual cost accounting practices (if any): the beneficiaries must keep any adequate records and supporting documents to prove that their cost accounting practices have been applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding, and that they comply with the eligibility conditions set out in Articles 6.1 and 6.2.

Moreover, the following is needed for specific budget categories:

- (e) for personnel costs: time worked for the beneficiary under the action must be supported by declarations signed monthly by the person and their supervisor, unless another reliable time-record system is in place; the granting authority may accept alternative evidence supporting the time worked for the action declared, if it considers that it offers an adequate level of assurance
- (f) additional record-keeping rules: not applicable

The records and supporting documents must be made available upon request (see Article 19) or in the context of checks, reviews, audits or investigations (see Article 25).

If there are on-going checks, reviews, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims under the Agreement (including the extension of findings; see Article 25), the beneficiaries must keep these records and other supporting documentation until the end of these procedures.

The beneficiaries must keep the original documents. Digital and digitalised documents are considered originals if they are authorised by the applicable national law. The granting authority may accept non-original documents if they offer a comparable level of assurance.

# 20.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, costs or contributions insufficiently substantiated will be ineligible (see Article 6) and will be rejected (see Article 27), and the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

#### **ARTICLE 21 — REPORTING**

# 21.1 Continuous reporting

The beneficiaries must continuously report on the progress of the action (e.g. **deliverables**, **milestones**, **outputs/outcomes**, **critical risks**, **indicators**, etc; if any), in the Portal Continuous Reporting tool and in accordance with the timing and conditions it sets out (as agreed with the granting authority).

Standardised deliverables (e.g. progress reports not linked to payments, reports on cumulative expenditure, special reports, etc; if any) must be submitted using the templates published on the Portal.

# 21.2 Periodic reporting: Technical reports and financial statements

In addition, the beneficiaries must provide reports to request payments, in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2):

- for additional prefinancings (if any): an additional prefinancing report
- for interim payments (if any) and the final payment: a **periodic report**.

The prefinancing and periodic reports include a technical and financial part.

The technical part includes an overview of the action implementation. It must be prepared using the template available in the Portal Periodic Reporting tool.

The financial part of the additional prefinancing report includes a statement on the use of the previous prefinancing payment.

The financial part of the periodic report includes:

- the financial statements (individual and consolidated; for all beneficiaries/affiliated entities)
- the explanation on the use of resources (or detailed cost reporting table, if required)
- the certificates on the financial statements (CFS) (if required; see Article 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3).

The **financial statements** must detail the eligible costs and contributions for each budget category and, for the final payment, also the revenues for the action (see Articles 6 and 22).

All eligible costs and contributions incurred should be declared, even if they exceed the amounts indicated in the estimated budget (see Annex 2). Amounts that are not declared in the individual financial statements will not be taken into account by the granting authority.

By signing the financial statements (directly in the Portal Periodic Reporting tool), the beneficiaries confirm that:

- the information provided is complete, reliable and true
- the costs and contributions declared are eligible (see Article 6)
- the costs and contributions can be substantiated by adequate records and supporting documents (see Article 20) that will be produced upon request (see Article 19) or in the context of checks, reviews, audits and investigations (see Article 25)
- for the final periodic report: all the revenues have been declared (if required; see Article 22).

Beneficiaries will have to submit also the financial statements of their affiliated entities (if any). In case of recoveries (see Article 22), beneficiaries will be held responsible also for the financial statements of their affiliated entities.

# 21.3 Currency for financial statements and conversion into euros

The financial statements must be drafted in euro.

Beneficiaries with general accounts established in a currency other than the euro must convert the

costs recorded in their accounts into euro, at the average of the daily exchange rates published in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Union* (ECB website), calculated over the corresponding reporting period.

If no daily euro exchange rate is published in the *Official Journal* for the currency in question, they must be converted at the average of the monthly accounting exchange rates published on the European Commission website (InforEuro), calculated over the corresponding reporting period.

Beneficiaries with general accounts in euro must convert costs incurred in another currency into euro according to their usual accounting practices.

# 21.4 Reporting language

The reporting must be in the language of the Agreement, unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2).

# 21.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a report submitted does not comply with this Article, the granting authority may suspend the payment deadline (see Article 29) and apply other measures described in Chapter 5.

If the coordinator breaches its reporting obligations, the granting authority may terminate the grant or the coordinator's participation (see Article 32) or apply other measures described in Chapter 5.

# ARTICLE 22 — PAYMENTS AND RECOVERIES — CALCULATION OF AMOUNTS DUE

# 22.1 Payments and payment arrangements

Payments will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

They will be made in euro to the bank account indicated by the coordinator (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2) and must be distributed without unjustified delay (restrictions may apply to distribution of the initial prefinancing payment; see Data Sheet, Point 4.2).

Payments to this bank account will discharge the granting authority from its payment obligation.

The cost of payment transfers will be borne as follows:

- the granting authority bears the cost of transfers charged by its bank
- the beneficiary bears the cost of transfers charged by its bank
- the party causing a repetition of a transfer bears all costs of the repeated transfer.

Payments by the granting authority will be considered to have been carried out on the date when they are debited to its account.

#### 22.2 Recoveries

Recoveries will be made, if — at beneficiary termination, final payment or afterwards — it turns out that the granting authority has paid too much and needs to recover the amounts undue.

The general liability regime for recoveries (first-line liability) is as follows: At final payment, the coordinator will be fully liable for recoveries, even if it has not been the final recipient of the undue amounts. At beneficiary termination or after final payment, recoveries will be made directly against the beneficiaries concerned.

Beneficiaries will be fully liable for repaying the debts of their affiliated entities.

In case of enforced recoveries (see Article 22.4):

- the beneficiaries will be jointly and severally liable for repaying debts of another beneficiary under the Agreement (including late-payment interest), if required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.4)
- affiliated entities will be held liable for repaying debts of their beneficiaries under the Agreement (including late-payment interest), if required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.4).

#### 22.3 Amounts due

# 22.3.1 Prefinancing payments

The aim of the prefinancing is to provide the beneficiaries with a float.

It remains the property of the EU until the final payment.

For **initial prefinancings** (if any), the amount due, schedule and modalities are set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

For **additional prefinancings** (if any), the amount due, schedule and modalities are also set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2). However, if the statement on the use of the previous prefinancing payment shows that less than 70% was used, the amount set out in the Data Sheet will be reduced by the difference between the 70% threshold and the amount used.

Prefinancing payments (or parts of them) may be offset (without the beneficiaries' consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, offsetting may also be done against amounts owed to other Commission services or executive agencies.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

# 22.3.2 Amount due at beneficiary termination — Recovery

In case of beneficiary termination, the granting authority will determine the provisional amount due for the beneficiary concerned. Payments (if any) will be made with the next interim or final payment.

The **amount due** will be calculated in the following step:

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

# Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the 'accepted EU contribution' for the beneficiary for all reporting periods, by calculating the 'maximum EU contribution to costs' (applying the funding rate to the accepted costs of the beneficiary), taking into account requests for a lower contribution to costs and CFS threshold cappings (if any; see Article 24.5) and adding the contributions (accepted unit, flat-rate or lump sum contributions and financing not linked to costs, if any).

After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting amount is the 'total accepted EU contribution' for the beneficiary.

The **balance** is then calculated by deducting the payments received (if any; see report on the distribution of payments in Article 32), from the total accepted EU contribution:

```
{total accepted EU contribution for the beneficiary minus {prefinancing and interim payments received (if any)}}.
```

If the balance is **positive**, the amount will be included in the next interim or final payment to the consortium.

If the balance is **negative**, it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the amount due, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received), it will confirm the amount to be recovered and ask this amount to be paid to the coordinator (**confirmation letter**).

The amounts will later on also be taken into account for the next interim or final payment.

#### 22.3.3 Interim payments

Interim payments reimburse the eligible costs and contributions claimed for the implementation of the action during the reporting periods (if any).

Interim payments (if any) will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

Payment is subject to the approval of the periodic report. Its approval does not imply recognition of compliance, authenticity, completeness or correctness of its content.

The **interim payment** will be calculated by the granting authority in the following steps:

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

# Step 2 — Limit to the interim payment ceiling

# Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will calculate the 'accepted EU contribution' for the action for the reporting period, by first calculating the 'maximum EU contribution to costs' (applying the funding rate to the accepted costs of each beneficiary), taking into account requests for a lower contribution to costs, and CFS threshold cappings (if any; see Article 24.5) and adding the contributions (accepted unit, flat-rate or lump sum contributions and financing not linked to costs, if any).

After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions from beneficiary termination (if any). The resulting amount is the 'total accepted EU contribution'.

# Step 2 — Limit to the interim payment ceiling

The resulting amount is then capped to ensure that the total amount of prefinancing and interim payments (if any) does not exceed the interim payment ceiling set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

Interim payments (or parts of them) may be offset (without the beneficiaries' consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, offsetting may also be done against amounts owed to other Commission services or executive agencies.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

# 22.3.4 Final payment — Final grant amount — Revenues and Profit — Recovery

The final payment (payment of the balance) reimburses the remaining part of the eligible costs and contributions claimed for the implementation of the action (if any).

The final payment will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

Payment is subject to the approval of the final periodic report. Its approval does not imply recognition of compliance, authenticity, completeness or correctness of its content.

The **final grant amount for the action** will be calculated in the following steps:

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

Step 2 — Limit to the maximum grant amount

Step 3 — Reduction due to the no-profit rule

# Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the 'accepted EU contribution' for the action for all reporting periods, by calculating the 'maximum EU contribution to costs' (applying the funding rate to the total accepted costs of each beneficiary), taking into account requests for a lower contribution to costs, CFS

threshold cappings (if any; see Article 24.5) and adding the contributions (accepted unit, flat-rate or lump sum contributions and financing not linked to costs, if any).

After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting amount is the 'total accepted EU contribution'.

### Step 2 — Limit to the maximum grant amount

If the resulting amount is higher than the maximum grant amount set out in Article 5.2, it will be limited to the latter.

# Step 3 — Reduction due to the no-profit rule

If the no-profit rule is provided for in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2), the grant must not produce a profit (i.e. surplus of the amount obtained following Step 2 plus the action's revenues, over the eligible costs and contributions approved by the granting authority).

'Revenue' is all income generated by the action, during its duration (see Article 4), for beneficiaries that are profit legal entities.

If there is a profit, it will be deducted in proportion to the final rate of reimbursement of the eligible costs approved by the granting authority (as compared to the amount calculated following Steps 1 and 2 minus the contributions).

The **balance** (final payment) is then calculated by deducting the total amount of prefinancing and interim payments already made (if any), from the final grant amount:

```
{final grant amount
minus
{prefinancing and interim payments made (if any)}}.
```

If the balance is **positive**, it will be **paid** to the coordinator.

The final payment (or part of it) may be offset (without the beneficiaries' consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, offsetting may also be done against amounts owed to other Commission services or executive agencies.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

If the balance is **negative**, it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the coordinator:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the final grant amount, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received), it will confirm the amount to be recovered (**confirmation letter**), together with a **debit note** with the terms and date for payment.

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the granting authority will **enforce recovery** in accordance with Article 22.4.

# 22.3.5 Audit implementation after final payment — Revised final grant amount — Recovery

If — after the final payment (in particular, after checks, reviews, audits or investigations; see Article 25) — the granting authority rejects costs or contributions (see Article 27) or reduces the grant (see Article 28), it will calculate the **revised final grant amount** for the beneficiary concerned.

The **beneficiary revised final grant amount** will be calculated in the following step:

Step 1 — Calculation of the revised total accepted EU contribution

Step 1 — Calculation of the revised total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the 'revised accepted EU contribution' for the beneficiary, by calculating the 'revised accepted costs' and 'revised accepted contributions'.

After that, it will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting 'revised total accepted EU contribution' is the beneficiary revised final grant amount.

If the revised final grant amount is lower than the beneficiary's final grant amount (i.e. its share in the final grant amount for the action), it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The **beneficiary final grant amount** (i.e. share in the final grant amount for the action) is calculated as follows:

```
{{total accepted EU contribution for the beneficiary divided by total accepted EU contribution for the action} multiplied by final grant amount for the action}.
```

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received), it will confirm the amount to be recovered (**confirmation letter**), together with a **debit note** with the terms and the date for payment.

Recoveries against affiliated entities (if any) will be handled through their beneficiaries.

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the granting authority will **enforce recovery** in accordance with Article 22.4.

# 22.4 Enforced recovery

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the amount due will be recovered:

(a) by offsetting the amount — without the coordinator or beneficiary's consent — against any amounts owed to the coordinator or beneficiary by the granting authority.

In exceptional circumstances, to safeguard the EU financial interests, the amount may be offset before the payment date specified in the debit note.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, debts may also be offset against amounts owed by other Commission services or executive agencies.

- (b) by drawing on the financial guarantee(s) (if any)
- (c) by holding other beneficiaries jointly and severally liable (if any; see Data Sheet, Point 4.4)
- (d) by holding affiliated entities jointly and severally liable (if any, see Data Sheet, Point 4.4)
- (e) by taking legal action (see Article 43) or, provided that the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, by adopting an enforceable decision under Article 299 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 100(2) of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

The amount to be recovered will be increased by **late-payment interest** at the rate set out in Article 22.5, from the day following the payment date in the debit note, up to and including the date the full payment is received.

Partial payments will be first credited against expenses, charges and late-payment interest and then against the principal.

Bank charges incurred in the recovery process will be borne by the beneficiary, unless Directive 2015/2366<sup>17</sup> applies.

For grants where the granting authority is an EU executive agency, enforced recovery by offsetting or enforceable decision will be done by the services of the European Commission (see also Article 43).

# 22.5 Consequences of non-compliance

**22.5.1** If the granting authority does not pay within the payment deadlines (see above), the beneficiaries are entitled to **late-payment interest** at the rate applied by the European Central Bank (ECB) for its main refinancing operations in euros ('reference rate'), plus the rate specified in the Data Sheet (Point 4.2). The reference rate is the rate in force on the first day of the month in which the payment deadline expires, as published in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

If the late-payment interest is lower than or equal to EUR 200, it will be paid to the coordinator only on request submitted within two months of receiving the late payment.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Directive (EU) 2015/2366 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on payment services in the internal market, amending Directives 2002/65/EC, 2009/110/EC and 2013/36/EU and Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010, and repealing Directive 2007/64/EC (OJ L 337, 23.12.2015, p. 35).

Late-payment interest is not due if all beneficiaries are EU Member States (including regional and local government authorities or other public bodies acting on behalf of a Member State for the purpose of this Agreement).

If payments or the payment deadline are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30), payment will not be considered as late.

Late-payment interest covers the period running from the day following the due date for payment (see above), up to and including the date of payment.

Late-payment interest is not considered for the purposes of calculating the final grant amount.

**22.5.2** If the coordinator breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28) and the grant or the coordinator may be terminated (see Article 32).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

# **ARTICLE 23 — GUARANTEES**

# 23.1 Prefinancing guarantee

If required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2), the beneficiaries must provide (one or more) prefinancing guarantee(s) in accordance with the timing and the amounts set out in the Data Sheet.

The coordinator must submit them to the granting authority in due time before the prefinancing they are linked to.

The guarantees must be drawn up using the template published on the Portal and fulfil the following conditions:

- (a) be provided by a bank or approved financial institution established in the EU or if requested by the coordinator and accepted by the granting authority by a third party or a bank or financial institution established outside the EU offering equivalent security
- (b) the guarantor stands as first-call guarantor and does not require the granting authority to first have recourse against the principal debtor (i.e. the beneficiary concerned) and
- (c) remain explicitly in force until the final payment and, if the final payment takes the form of a recovery, until five months after the debit note is notified to a beneficiary.

They will be released within the following month.

# 23.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If the beneficiaries breach their obligation to provide the prefinancing guarantee, the prefinancing will not be paid.

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

# **ARTICLE 24 — CERTIFICATES**

# 24.1 Operational verification report (OVR)

Not applicable

# 24.2 Certificate on the financial statements (CFS)

If required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.3), the beneficiaries must provide certificates on their financial statements (CFS), in accordance with the schedule, threshold and conditions set out in the Data Sheet.

The coordinator must submit them as part of the periodic report (see Article 21).

The certificates must be drawn up using the template published on the Portal, cover the costs declared on the basis of actual costs and costs according to usual cost accounting practices (if any), and fulfil the following conditions:

- (a) be provided by a qualified approved external auditor which is independent and complies with Directive 2006/43/EC<sup>18</sup> (or for public bodies: by a competent independent public officer)
- (b) the verification must be carried out according to the highest professional standards to ensure that the financial statements comply with the provisions under the Agreement and that the costs declared are eligible.

The certificates will not affect the granting authority's right to carry out its own checks, reviews or audits, nor preclude the European Court of Auditors (ECA), the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) or the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) from using their prerogatives for audits and investigations under the Agreement (see Article 25).

If the costs (or a part of them) were already audited by the granting authority, these costs do not need to be covered by the certificate and will not be counted for calculating the threshold (if any).

# 24.3 Certificate on the compliance of usual cost accounting practices (CoMUC)

Beneficiaries which use unit, flat rate or lump sum costs or contributions according to usual costs accounting practices (if any) may submit to the granting authority, for approval, a certificate on the methodology stating that their usual cost accounting practices comply with the eligibility conditions under the Agreement.

The certificate must be drawn up using the template published on the Portal and fulfil the following conditions:

- (a) be provided by a qualified approved external auditor which is independent and complies with Directive 2006/43/EC<sup>19</sup> (or for public bodies: by a competent independent public officer)
- (b) the verification must be carried out according to the highest professional standards to ensure that the methodology for declaring costs according to usual accounting practices complies with the provisions under the Agreement.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts or similar national regulations (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 87).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts or similar national regulations (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 87).

If the certificate is approved, amounts declared in line with this methodology will not be challenged subsequently, unless the beneficiary concealed information for the purpose of the approval.

# 24.4 Systems and process audit (SPA)

Not applicable

# 24.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary does not submit a certificate on the financial statements (CFS) or the certificate is rejected, the accepted EU contribution to costs will be capped to reflect the CFS threshold.

If a beneficiary breaches any of its other obligations under this Article, the granting authority may apply the measures described in Chapter 5.

# ARTICLE 25 — CHECKS, REVIEWS, AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS — EXTENSION OF FINDINGS

# 25.1 Granting authority checks, reviews and audits

### 25.1.1 Internal checks

The granting authority may — during the action or afterwards — check the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement, including assessing costs and contributions, deliverables and reports.

### 25.1.2 Project reviews

The granting authority may carry out reviews on the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement (general project reviews or specific issues reviews).

Such project reviews may be started during the implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

If needed, the granting authority may be assisted by independent, outside experts. If it uses outside experts, the coordinator or beneficiary concerned will be informed and have the right to object on grounds of commercial confidentiality or conflict of interest.

The coordinator or beneficiary concerned must cooperate diligently and provide — within the deadline requested — any information and data in addition to deliverables and reports already submitted (including information on the use of resources). The granting authority may request beneficiaries to provide such information to it directly. Sensitive information and documents will be treated in accordance with Article 13.

The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may be requested to participate in meetings, including with the outside experts.

For **on-the-spot visits**, the beneficiary concerned must allow access to sites and premises (including to the outside experts) and must ensure that information requested is readily available.

Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

On the basis of the review findings, a **project review report** will be drawn up.

The granting authority will formally notify the project review report to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned, which has 30 days from receiving notification to make observations.

Project reviews (including project review reports) will be in the language of the Agreement.

#### **25.1.3** Audits

The granting authority may carry out audits on the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

Such audits may be started during the implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the beneficiary concerned and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

The granting authority may use its own audit service, delegate audits to a centralised service or use external audit firms. If it uses an external firm, the beneficiary concerned will be informed and have the right to object on grounds of commercial confidentiality or conflict of interest.

The beneficiary concerned must cooperate diligently and provide — within the deadline requested — any information (including complete accounts, individual salary statements or other personal data) to verify compliance with the Agreement. Sensitive information and documents will be treated in accordance with Article 13.

For **on-the-spot** visits, the beneficiary concerned must allow access to sites and premises (including for the external audit firm) and must ensure that information requested is readily available.

Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

On the basis of the audit findings, a **draft audit report** will be drawn up.

The auditors will formally notify the draft audit report to the beneficiary concerned, which has 30 days from receiving notification to make observations (contradictory audit procedure).

The **final audit report** will take into account observations by the beneficiary concerned and will be formally notified to them.

Audits (including audit reports) will be in the language of the Agreement.

# 25.2 European Commission checks, reviews and audits in grants of other granting authorities

Where the granting authority is not the European Commission, the latter has the same rights of checks, reviews and audits as the granting authority.

# 25.3 Access to records for assessing simplified forms of funding

The beneficiaries must give the European Commission access to their statutory records for the periodic assessment of simplified forms of funding which are used in EU programmes.

# 25.4 OLAF, EPPO and ECA audits and investigations

The following bodies may also carry out checks, reviews, audits and investigations — during the action or afterwards:

- the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) under Regulations No 883/2013<sup>20</sup> and No 2185/96<sup>21</sup>
- the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) under Regulation 2017/1939
- the European Court of Auditors (ECA) under Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 257 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

If requested by these bodies, the beneficiary concerned must provide full, accurate and complete information in the format requested (including complete accounts, individual salary statements or other personal data, including in electronic format) and allow access to sites and premises for on-the-spot visits or inspections — as provided for under these Regulations.

To this end, the beneficiary concerned must keep all relevant information relating to the action, at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (Point 6) and, in any case, until any ongoing checks, reviews, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims have been concluded.

# 25.5 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations — Extension of results of reviews, audits or investigations

# 25.5.1 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations in this grant

Findings in checks, reviews, audits or investigations carried out in the context of this grant may lead to rejections (see Article 27), grant reduction (see Article 28) or other measures described in Chapter 5.

Rejections or grant reductions after the final payment will lead to a revised final grant amount (see Article 22).

Findings in checks, reviews, audits or investigations during the action implementation may lead to a request for amendment (see Article 39), to change the description of the action set out in Annex 1.

Checks, reviews, audits or investigations that find systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations in any EU grant may also lead to consequences in other EU grants awarded under similar conditions ('extension to other grants').

Moreover, findings arising from an OLAF or EPPO investigation may lead to criminal prosecution under national law.

<sup>20</sup> Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18/09/2013, p. 1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15/11/1996, p. 2).

# 25.5.2 Extension from other grants

Results of checks, reviews, audits or investigations in other grants may be extended to this grant, if:

- (a) the beneficiary concerned is found, in other EU grants awarded under similar conditions, to have committed systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant and
- (b) those findings are formally notified to the beneficiary concerned together with the list of grants affected by the findings within the time-limit for audits set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6).

The granting authority will formally notify the beneficiary concerned of the intention to extend the findings and the list of grants affected.

If the extension concerns rejections of costs or contributions: the notification will include:

- (a) an invitation to submit observations on the list of grants affected by the findings
- (b) the request to submit revised financial statements for all grants affected
- (c) the correction rate for extrapolation, established on the basis of the systemic or recurrent errors, to calculate the amounts to be rejected, if the beneficiary concerned:
  - (i) considers that the submission of revised financial statements is not possible or practicable or
  - (ii) does not submit revised financial statements.

If the extension concerns **grant reductions**: the notification will include:

- (a) an invitation to submit observations on the list of grants affected by the findings and
- (b) the **correction rate for extrapolation**, established on the basis of the systemic or recurrent errors and the principle of proportionality.

The beneficiary concerned has **60 days** from receiving notification to submit observations, revised financial statements or to propose a duly substantiated **alternative correction method/rate**.

On the basis of this, the granting authority will analyse the impact and decide on the implementation (i.e. start rejection or grant reduction procedures, either on the basis of the revised financial statements or the announced/alternative method/rate or a mix of those; see Articles 27 and 28).

# 25.6 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, costs or contributions insufficiently substantiated will be ineligible (see Article 6) and will be rejected (see Article 27), and the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

#### ARTICLE 26 — IMPACT EVALUATIONS

# 26.1 Impact evaluation

The granting authority may carry out impact evaluations of the action, measured against the objectives and indicators of the EU programme funding the grant.

Such evaluations may be started during implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the coordinator or beneficiaries and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

If needed, the granting authority may be assisted by independent outside experts.

The coordinator or beneficiaries must provide any information relevant to evaluate the impact of the action, including information in electronic format.

# **26.2** Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the granting authority may apply the measures described in Chapter 5.

# CHAPTER 5 CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE

# SECTION 1 REJECTIONS AND GRANT REDUCTION

# ARTICLE 27 — REJECTION OF COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

#### 27.1 Conditions

The granting authority will — at beneficiary termination, interim payment, final payment or afterwards — reject any costs or contributions which are ineligible (see Article 6), in particular following checks, reviews, audits or investigations (see Article 25).

The rejection may also be based on the extension of findings from other grants to this grant (see Article 25).

Ineligible costs or contributions will be rejected.

#### 27.2 Procedure

If the rejection does not lead to a recovery, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator or beneficiary concerned of the rejection, the amounts and the reasons why. The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may — within 30 days of receiving notification — submit observations if it disagrees with the rejection (payment review procedure).

If the rejection leads to a recovery, the granting authority will follow the contradictory procedure with pre-information letter set out in Article 22.

#### 27.3 Effects

If the granting authority rejects costs or contributions, it will deduct them from the costs or

contributions declared and then calculate the amount due (and, if needed, make a recovery; see Article 22).

#### ARTICLE 28 — GRANT REDUCTION

# 28.1 Conditions

The granting authority may — at beneficiary termination, final payment or afterwards — reduce the grant for a beneficiary, if:

- (a) the beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed:
  - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
  - (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.), or
- (b) the beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant (see Article 25).

The amount of the reduction will be calculated for each beneficiary concerned and proportionate to the seriousness and the duration of the errors, irregularities or fraud or breach of obligations, by applying an individual reduction rate to their accepted EU contribution.

#### 28.2 Procedure

If the grant reduction does not lead to a recovery, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator or beneficiary concerned of the reduction, the amount to be reduced and the reasons why. The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may — within 30 days of receiving notification — submit observations if it disagrees with the reduction (payment review procedure).

If the grant reduction leads to a recovery, the granting authority will follow the contradictory procedure with pre-information letter set out in Article 22.

#### 28.3 Effects

If the granting authority reduces the grant, it will deduct the reduction and then calculate the amount due (and, if needed, make a recovery; see Article 22).

# **SECTION 2 SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION**

# **ARTICLE 29 — PAYMENT DEADLINE SUSPENSION**

### 29.1 Conditions

The granting authority may — at any moment — suspend the payment deadline if a payment cannot be processed because:

- (a) the required report (see Article 21) has not been submitted or is not complete or additional information is needed
- (b) there are doubts about the amount to be paid (e.g. ongoing audit extension procedure, queries about eligibility, need for a grant reduction, etc.) and additional checks, reviews, audits or investigations are necessary, or
- (c) there are other issues affecting the EU financial interests.

#### 29.2 Procedure

The granting authority will formally notify the coordinator of the suspension and the reasons why.

The suspension will **take effect** the day the notification is sent.

If the conditions for suspending the payment deadline are no longer met, the suspension will be **lifted** — and the remaining time to pay (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2) will resume.

If the suspension exceeds two months, the coordinator may request the granting authority to confirm if the suspension will continue.

If the payment deadline has been suspended due to the non-compliance of the report and the revised report is not submitted (or was submitted but is also rejected), the granting authority may also terminate the grant or the participation of the coordinator (see Article 32).

#### ARTICLE 30 — PAYMENT SUSPENSION

# 30.1 Conditions

The granting authority may — at any moment — suspend payments, in whole or in part for one or more beneficiaries, if:

- (a) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed or is suspected of having committed:
  - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
  - (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.), or
- (b) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant.

If payments are suspended for one or more beneficiaries, the granting authority will make partial

payment(s) for the part(s) not suspended. If suspension concerns the final payment, the payment (or recovery) of the remaining amount after suspension is lifted will be considered to be the payment that closes the action.

#### 30.2 Procedure

Before suspending payments, the granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to suspend payments and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the suspension (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

At the end of the suspension procedure, the granting authority will also inform the coordinator.

The suspension will take effect the day after the confirmation notification is sent.

If the conditions for resuming payments are met, the suspension will be **lifted**. The granting authority will formally notify the beneficiary concerned (and the coordinator) and set the suspension end date.

During the suspension, no prefinancing will be paid to the beneficiaries concerned. For interim payments, the periodic reports for all reporting periods except the last one (see Article 21) must not contain any financial statements from the beneficiary concerned (or its affiliated entities). The coordinator must include them in the next periodic report after the suspension is lifted or — if suspension is not lifted before the end of the action — in the last periodic report.

# **ARTICLE 31 — GRANT AGREEMENT SUSPENSION**

### 31.1 Consortium-requested GA suspension

# 31.1.1 Conditions and procedure

The beneficiaries may request the suspension of the grant or any part of it, if exceptional circumstances — in particular *force majeure* (see Article 35) — make implementation impossible or excessively difficult.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the date the suspension takes effect; this date may be before the date of the submission of the amendment request and
- the expected date of resumption.

The suspension will **take effect** on the day specified in the amendment.

Once circumstances allow for implementation to resume, the coordinator must immediately request

another **amendment** of the Agreement to set the suspension end date, the resumption date (one day after suspension end date), extend the duration and make other changes necessary to adapt the action to the new situation (see Article 39) — unless the grant has been terminated (see Article 32). The suspension will be **lifted** with effect from the suspension end date set out in the amendment. This date may be before the date of the submission of the amendment request.

During the suspension, no prefinancing will be paid. Costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during grant suspension are not eligible (see Article 6.3).

#### 31.2 EU-initiated GA suspension

#### 31.2.1 Conditions

The granting authority may suspend the grant or any part of it, if:

- (a) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed or is suspected of having committed:
  - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
  - (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.), or
- (b) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant
- (c) other:
  - (i) linked action issues: not applicable
  - (ii) due to major delays, the objectives of the action risk to no longer be achieved

#### 31.2.2 Procedure

Before suspending the grant, the granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the coordinator:

- formally notifying the intention to suspend the grant and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the suspension (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

The suspension will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent (or on a later date specified in the notification).

Once the conditions for resuming implementation of the action are met, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator a **lifting of suspension letter**, in which it will set the suspension end date and invite the coordinator to request an amendment of the Agreement to set the resumption date (one day after suspension end date), extend the duration and make other changes necessary to adapt the action to the new situation (see Article 39) — unless the grant has been terminated (see Article 32). The suspension will be **lifted** with effect from the suspension end date set out in the lifting of suspension letter. This date may be before the date on which the letter is sent.

During the suspension, no prefinancing will be paid. Costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during suspension are not eligible (see Article 6.3).

The beneficiaries may not claim damages due to suspension by the granting authority (see Article 33).

Grant suspension does not affect the granting authority's right to terminate the grant or a beneficiary (see Article 32) or reduce the grant (see Article 28).

#### ARTICLE 32 — GRANT AGREEMENT OR BENEFICIARY TERMINATION

#### 32.1 Consortium-requested GA termination

#### 32.1.1 Conditions and procedure

The beneficiaries may request the termination of the grant.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the date the consortium ends work on the action ('end of work date') and
- the date the termination takes effect ('termination date'); this date must be after the date of the submission of the amendment request.

The termination will **take effect** on the termination date specified in the amendment.

If no reasons are given or if the granting authority considers the reasons do not justify termination, it may consider the grant terminated improperly.

#### **32.1.2 Effects**

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit a **periodic report** (for the open reporting period until termination).

The granting authority will calculate the final grant amount and final payment on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities implemented before the end of work date (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after the end of work are not eligible.

If the granting authority does not receive the report within the deadline, only costs and contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

Improper termination may lead to a grant reduction (see Article 28).

After termination, the beneficiaries' obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

#### 32.2 Consortium-requested beneficiary termination

#### **32.2.1** Conditions and procedure

The coordinator may request the termination of the participation of one or more beneficiaries, on request of the beneficiary concerned or on behalf of the other beneficiaries.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the opinion of the beneficiary concerned (or proof that this opinion has been requested in writing)
- the date the beneficiary ends work on the action ('end of work date')
- the date the termination takes effect ('termination date'); this date must be after the date of the submission of the amendment request.

If the termination concerns the coordinator and is done without its agreement, the amendment request must be submitted by another beneficiary (acting on behalf of the consortium).

The termination will **take effect** on the termination date specified in the amendment.

If no information is given or if the granting authority considers that the reasons do not justify termination, it may consider the beneficiary to have been terminated improperly.

#### **32.2.2 Effects**

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit:

- (i) a report on the distribution of payments to the beneficiary concerned
- (ii) a **termination report** from the beneficiary concerned, for the open reporting period until termination, containing an overview of the progress of the work, the financial statement, the explanation on the use of resources, and, if applicable, the certificate on the financial statement (CFS; see Articles 21 and 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3)
- (iii) a second **request for amendment** (see Article 39) with other amendments needed (e.g. reallocation of the tasks and the estimated budget of the terminated beneficiary; addition of a new beneficiary to replace the terminated beneficiary; change of coordinator, etc.).

The granting authority will calculate the amount due to the beneficiary on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities implemented before the end of work date (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after the end of work are not eligible.

The information in the termination report must also be included in the periodic report for the next reporting period (see Article 21).

If the granting authority does not receive the termination report within the deadline, only costs and contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

If the granting authority does not receive the report on the distribution of payments within the deadline, it will consider that:

- the coordinator did not distribute any payment to the beneficiary concerned and that
- the beneficiary concerned must not repay any amount to the coordinator.

If the second request for amendment is accepted by the granting authority, the Agreement is **amended** to introduce the necessary changes (see Article 39).

If the second request for amendment is rejected by the granting authority (because it calls into question the decision awarding the grant or breaches the principle of equal treatment of applicants), the grant may be terminated (see Article 32).

Improper termination may lead to a reduction of the grant (see Article 31) or grant termination (see Article 32).

After termination, the concerned beneficiary's obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

#### 32.3 EU-initiated GA or beneficiary termination

#### 32.3.1 Conditions

The granting authority may terminate the grant or the participation of one or more beneficiaries, if:

- (a) one or more beneficiaries do not accede to the Agreement (see Article 40)
- (b) a change to the action or the legal, financial, technical, organisational or ownership situation of a beneficiary is likely to substantially affect the implementation of the action or calls into question the decision to award the grant (including changes linked to one of the exclusion grounds listed in the declaration of honour)
- (c) following termination of one or more beneficiaries, the necessary changes to the Agreement (and their impact on the action) would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants
- (d) implementation of the action has become impossible or the changes necessary for its continuation would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants
- (e) a beneficiary (or person with unlimited liability for its debts) is subject to bankruptcy

- proceedings or similar (including insolvency, winding-up, administration by a liquidator or court, arrangement with creditors, suspension of business activities, etc.)
- (f) a beneficiary (or person with unlimited liability for its debts) is in breach of social security or tax obligations
- (g) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has been found guilty of grave professional misconduct
- (h) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed fraud, corruption, or is involved in a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking
- (i) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) was created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin (or created another entity with this purpose)
- (j) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed:
  - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
  - (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.)
- (k) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant (extension of findings from other grants to this grant; see Article 25)
- (l) despite a specific request by the granting authority, a beneficiary does not request through the coordinator an amendment to the Agreement to end the participation of one of its affiliated entities or associated partners that is in one of the situations under points (d), (f), (e), (g), (h), (i) or (j) and to reallocate its tasks, or

#### (m) other:

- (i) linked action issues: not applicable
- (ii) due to major delays, the objectives of the action can no longer be achieved

#### 32.3.2 Procedure

Before terminating the grant or participation of one or more beneficiaries, the granting authority will send **a pre-information letter** to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to terminate and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the termination and the date it will take effect (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

For beneficiary terminations, the granting authority will — at the end of the procedure — also inform the coordinator.

The termination will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent (or on a later date specified in the notification; 'termination date').

#### **32.3.3** Effects

#### (a) for **GA termination**:

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit a **periodic report** (for the last open reporting period until termination).

The granting authority will calculate the final grant amount and final payment on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities implemented before termination takes effect (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after termination are not eligible.

If the grant is terminated for breach of the obligation to submit reports, the coordinator may not submit any report after termination.

If the granting authority does not receive the report within the deadline, only costs and contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

Termination does not affect the granting authority's right to reduce the grant (see Article 28) or to impose administrative sanctions (see Article 34).

The beneficiaries may not claim damages due to termination by the granting authority (see Article 33).

After termination, the beneficiaries' obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

#### (b) for beneficiary termination:

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit:

- (i) a report on the distribution of payments to the beneficiary concerned
- (ii) a **termination report** from the beneficiary concerned, for the open reporting period until termination, containing an overview of the progress of the work, the financial

statement, the explanation on the use of resources, and, if applicable, the certificate on the financial statement (CFS; see Articles 21 and 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3)

(iii) a **request for amendment** (see Article 39) with any amendments needed (e.g. reallocation of the tasks and the estimated budget of the terminated beneficiary; addition of a new beneficiary to replace the terminated beneficiary; change of coordinator, etc.).

The granting authority will calculate the amount due to the beneficiary on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities implemented before termination takes effect (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after termination are not eligible.

The information in the termination report must also be included in the periodic report for the next reporting period (see Article 21).

If the granting authority does not receive the termination report within the deadline, only costs and contributions included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

If the granting authority does not receive the report on the distribution of payments within the deadline, it will consider that:

- the coordinator did not distribute any payment to the beneficiary concerned and that
- the beneficiary concerned must not repay any amount to the coordinator.

If the request for amendment is accepted by the granting authority, the Agreement is **amended** to introduce the necessary changes (see Article 39).

If the request for amendment is rejected by the granting authority (because it calls into question the decision awarding the grant or breaches the principle of equal treatment of applicants), the grant may be terminated (see Article 32).

After termination, the concerned beneficiary's obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

## SECTION 3 OTHER CONSEQUENCES: DAMAGES AND ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS

#### ARTICLE 33 — DAMAGES

#### 33.1 Liability of the granting authority

The granting authority cannot be held liable for any damage caused to the beneficiaries or to third parties as a consequence of the implementation of the Agreement, including for gross negligence.

The granting authority cannot be held liable for any damage caused by any of the beneficiaries or other participants involved in the action, as a consequence of the implementation of the Agreement.

#### 33.2 Liability of the beneficiaries

The beneficiaries must compensate the granting authority for any damage it sustains as a result of the implementation of the action or because the action was not implemented in full compliance with the Agreement, provided that it was caused by gross negligence or wilful act.

The liability does not extend to indirect or consequential losses or similar damage (such as loss of profit, loss of revenue or loss of contracts), provided such damage was not caused by wilful act or by a breach of confidentiality.

#### ARTICLE 34 — ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS AND OTHER MEASURES

Nothing in this Agreement may be construed as preventing the adoption of administrative sanctions (i.e. exclusion from EU award procedures and/or financial penalties) or other public law measures, in addition or as an alternative to the contractual measures provided under this Agreement (see, for instance, Articles 135 to 145 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046 and Articles 4 and 7 of Regulation 2988/95<sup>22</sup>).

#### **SECTION 4 FORCE MAJEURE**

#### ARTICLE 35 — FORCE MAJEURE

A party prevented by force majeure from fulfilling its obligations under the Agreement cannot be considered in breach of them.

'Force majeure' means any situation or event that:

- prevents either party from fulfilling their obligations under the Agreement,
- was unforeseeable, exceptional situation and beyond the parties' control,
- was not due to error or negligence on their part (or on the part of other participants involved in the action), and
- proves to be inevitable in spite of exercising all due diligence.

Any situation constituting force majeure must be formally notified to the other party without delay, stating the nature, likely duration and foreseeable effects.

The parties must immediately take all the necessary steps to limit any damage due to force majeure and do their best to resume implementation of the action as soon as possible.

#### **CHAPTER 6 FINAL PROVISIONS**

#### ARTICLE 36 — COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES

#### 36.1 Forms and means of communication — Electronic management

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1).

EU grants are managed fully electronically through the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ('Portal').

All communications must be made electronically through the Portal, in accordance with the Portal Terms and Conditions and using the forms and templates provided there (except if explicitly instructed otherwise by the granting authority).

Communications must be made in writing and clearly identify the grant agreement (project number and acronym).

Communications must be made by persons authorised according to the Portal Terms and Conditions. For naming the authorised persons, each beneficiary must have designated — before the signature of this Agreement — a 'legal entity appointed representative (LEAR)'. The role and tasks of the LEAR are stipulated in their appointment letter (see Portal Terms and Conditions).

If the electronic exchange system is temporarily unavailable, instructions will be given on the Portal.

#### 36.2 Date of communication

The sending date for communications made through the Portal will be the date and time of sending, as indicated by the time logs.

The receiving date for communications made through the Portal will be the date and time the communication is accessed, as indicated by the time logs. Formal notifications that have not been accessed within 10 days after sending, will be considered to have been accessed (see Portal Terms and Conditions).

If a communication is exceptionally made on paper (by e-mail or postal service), general principles apply (i.e. date of sending/receipt). Formal notifications by registered post with proof of delivery will be considered to have been received either on the delivery date registered by the postal service or the deadline for collection at the post office.

If the electronic exchange system is temporarily unavailable, the sending party cannot be considered in breach of its obligation to send a communication within a specified deadline.

#### 36.3 Addresses for communication

The Portal can be accessed via the Europa website.

The address for paper communications to the granting authority (if exceptionally allowed) is the official mailing address indicated on its website.

For beneficiaries, it is the legal address specified in the Portal Participant Register.

#### ARTICLE 37 — INTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENT

The provisions in the Data Sheet take precedence over the rest of the Terms and Conditions of the Agreement.

Annex 5 takes precedence over the Terms and Conditions; the Terms and Conditions take precedence over the Annexes other than Annex 5.

Annex 2 takes precedence over Annex 1.

#### ARTICLE 38 — CALCULATION OF PERIODS AND DEADLINES

In accordance with Regulation No 1182/71<sup>23</sup>, periods expressed in days, months or years are calculated from the moment the triggering event occurs.

The day during which that event occurs is not considered as falling within the period.

'Days' means calendar days, not working days.

#### **ARTICLE 39 — AMENDMENTS**

#### 39.1 Conditions

The Agreement may be amended, unless the amendment entails changes to the Agreement which would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants.

Amendments may be requested by any of the parties.

#### 39.2 Procedure

The party requesting an amendment must submit a request for amendment signed directly in the Portal Amendment tool

The coordinator submits and receives requests for amendment on behalf of the beneficiaries (see Annex 3). If a change of coordinator is requested without its agreement, the submission must be done by another beneficiary (acting on behalf of the other beneficiaries).

The request for amendment must include:

- the reasons why
- the appropriate supporting documents and
- for a change of coordinator without its agreement: the opinion of the coordinator (or proof that this opinion has been requested in writing).

The granting authority may request additional information.

If the party receiving the request agrees, it must sign the amendment in the tool within 45 days of receiving notification (or any additional information the granting authority has requested). If it does not agree, it must formally notify its disagreement within the same deadline. The deadline may be extended, if necessary for the assessment of the request. If no notification is received within the deadline, the request is considered to have been rejected.

An amendment **enters into force** on the day of the signature of the receiving party.

An amendment takes effect on the date of entry into force or other date specified in the amendment.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 1182/71 of the Council of 3 June 1971 determining the rules applicable to periods, dates and time-limits (OJ L 124, 8/6/1971, p. 1).

#### ARTICLE 40 — ACCESSION AND ADDITION OF NEW BENEFICIARIES

#### 40.1 Accession of the beneficiaries mentioned in the Preamble

The beneficiaries which are not coordinator must accede to the grant by signing the accession form (see Annex 3) directly in the Portal Grant Preparation tool, within 30 days after the entry into force of the Agreement (see Article 44).

They will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of its entry into force (see Article 44).

If a beneficiary does not accede to the grant within the above deadline, the coordinator must — within 30 days — request an amendment (see Article 39) to terminate the beneficiary and make any changes necessary to ensure proper implementation of the action. This does not affect the granting authority's right to terminate the grant (see Article 32).

#### 40.2 Addition of new beneficiaries

In justified cases, the beneficiaries may request the addition of a new beneficiary.

For this purpose, the coordinator must submit a request for amendment in accordance with Article 39. It must include an accession form (see Annex 3) signed by the new beneficiary directly in the Portal Amendment tool.

New beneficiaries will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of their accession specified in the accession form (see Annex 3).

Additions are also possible in mono-beneficiary grants.

#### ARTICLE 41 — TRANSFER OF THE AGREEMENT

In justified cases, the beneficiary of a mono-beneficiary grant may request the transfer of the grant to a new beneficiary, provided that this would not call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants.

The beneficiary must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with

- the reasons why
- the accession form (see Annex 3) signed by the new beneficiary directly in the Portal Amendment tool and
- additional supporting documents (if required by the granting authority).

The new beneficiary will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of accession specified in the accession form (see Annex 3).

### ARTICLE 42 — ASSIGNMENTS OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT AGAINST THE GRANTING AUTHORITY

The beneficiaries may not assign any of their claims for payment against the granting authority to

any third party, except if expressly approved in writing by the granting authority on the basis of a reasoned, written request by the coordinator (on behalf of the beneficiary concerned).

If the granting authority has not accepted the assignment or if the terms of it are not observed, the assignment will have no effect on it.

In no circumstances will an assignment release the beneficiaries from their obligations towards the granting authority.

#### ARTICLE 43 — APPLICABLE LAW AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

#### 43.1 Applicable law

The Agreement is governed by the applicable EU law, supplemented if necessary by the law of Belgium.

Special rules may apply for beneficiaries which are international organisations (if any; see Data Sheet, Point 5).

#### 43.2 Dispute settlement

If a dispute concerns the interpretation, application or validity of the Agreement, the parties must bring action before the EU General Court — or, on appeal, the EU Court of Justice — under Article 272 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU).

For non-EU beneficiaries (if any), such disputes must be brought before the courts of Brussels, Belgium — unless an international agreement provides for the enforceability of EU court judgements.

For beneficiaries with arbitration as special dispute settlement forum (if any; see Data Sheet, Point 5), the dispute will — in the absence of an amicable settlement — be settled in accordance with the Rules for Arbitration published on the Portal.

If a dispute concerns administrative sanctions, offsetting or an enforceable decision under Article 299 TFEU (see Articles 22 and 34), the beneficiaries must bring action before the General Court — or, on appeal, the Court of Justice — under Article 263 TFEU.

For grants where the granting authority is an EU executive agency (see Preamble), actions against offsetting and enforceable decisions must be brought against the European Commission (not against the granting authority; see also Article 22).

#### ARTICLE 44 — ENTRY INTO FORCE

The Agreement will enter into force on the day of signature by the granting authority or the coordinator, depending on which is later.

#### SIGNATURES

For the coordinator

For the granting authority





#### ANNEX 1



## **Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)**

## **Description of the action (DoA)**

Part A

Part B

#### **DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION (PART A)**

#### **COVER PAGE**

Part A of the Description of the Action (DoA) must be completed directly on the Portal Grant Preparation screens.

PROJECT					
Grant Preparation (General Information screen) — Enter the info.					
Project number: 101122631					
Project name:	Safe Parking for Trucks (SSTPA) in the LAA of Murcia				
Project acronym: 22-ES-TG-MURCIA SAFE4TRUCKS					
Call:	CEF-T-2022-SAFEMOBGEN				
Topic: CEF-T-2022-SAFEMOBGEN-PARKINGS-WORKS					
Type of action:	Type of action: CEF-INFRA				
Service:	Service: CINEA/B/03				
Project starting date: fixed date: 1 November 2023					
Project duration:	25 months				

#### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Project summary	
List of participants	3
List of work packages	4
Staff effort	
List of deliverables	8
List of milestones (outputs/outcomes)	11
List of critical risks	12

#### PROJECT SUMMARY

#### **Project summary**

Grant Preparation (General Information screen) — Provide an overall description of your project (including context and overall objectives, planned activities and main achievements, and expected results and impacts (on target groups, change procedures, capacities, innovation etc.)). This summary should give readers a clear idea of what your project is about.

Use the project summary from your proposal.

The objective of the project is the construction of a Secure Truck Parking Area (SSTPA), next to the Core Network, in the Murcia-Almeria section of the Mediterranean Corridor. This infrastructure will be a benchmark for safe and secure parking in the Region of Murcia and in the southeast of Spain. It will have 415 parking spaces for heavy goods vehicles and a surface area of 8.4 ha, and zoning the site for general goods vehicles, refrigerated vehicles, flammable vehicles, and non-flammable hazardous vehicles.

The project aims to improve freight parking capacity in south-eastern Spain and to address the growing challenges related to safety and unattractive working conditions leading to driver shortages and an ageing workforce.

Therefore, the SSTPA has been designed to be certified at Gold level (EU Parking), according to the EU Standard for Safe and Secure Truck Parking Areas.

#### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

#### **PARTICIPANTS**

Grant Preparation (Beneficiaries screen) — Enter the info.

Number	Role	Short name	Legal name	Country	PIC
1	COO	CARM	CONSEJERIA DE FOMENTO E INFRAESTRUCTURAS	ES	907305409

#### LIST OF WORK PACKAGES

#### Work packages

Grant Preparation (Work Packages screen) — Enter the info.

Work Package No	Work Package name	Lead Beneficiary	Effort (Person- Months)	Start Month	End Month	Deliverables
WP1	PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND DISSEMINATION	1 - CARM	0.00	1		D1.1 – Communication & Dissemination Plan D1.2 – Contingency Plan D1.3 – Report on the implementation of the Communication & Dissemination activities D1.4 – Progress report D1.5 – Gold Level Certification
WP2	PARKING CONSTRUCTION WORKS	1 - CARM	0.00	9	22	D2.1 – Certificate of receipt of the work.

#### Work package WP1 - PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND DISSEMINATION

Work Package Number	WP1	Lead Beneficiary	1. CARM
Work Package Name	PROJECT MANAGEMENT	AND DISSEMINATION	
Start Month	1	End Month	25

#### **Objectives**

This WP will address the project management, the communication and dissemination activities along the entire project implementation.

#### **Description**

In the framework of WP1, a management and coordination structure will be established, including planning, technical (task 1.1), administrative, and financial monitoring systems (task 1.2), quality procedures and risk evaluation controls (task 1.3), the communication and dissemination activities (tasks 1.4 and 1.5).

A Steering Committee (SC) will be created and will be responsible for the taking strategic decisions and the overall assessment of the project, counting on the participation of other Administrations, bodies and public or private entities involved in the project. This Committee will also coordinate the technical, administrative and communication activities of the project, being supported in some actions (mainly administrative and communication) by external assistance. SC meeting will be held at least twice a year.

The tender preparation of the main contracts for the parking construction works (WP2) will be delivered in this WP (task1.6). Finally, WP1, will also address the gold level certification process of the SSTPA (task1.7).

#### Work package WP2 – PARKING CONSTRUCTION WORKS

Work Package Number	WP2	Lead Beneficiary	1. CARM		
Work Package Name	PARKING CONSTRUCTION WORKS				
Start Month	9	End Month	22		

#### **Objectives**

This WP will cover the construction works of the SSTPA, from the award of the contract to the reception of the works.

#### Description

The WP consists of 21 tasks, which correspond to the various actions to be carried out in relation to the parking construction, and corresponding to the different chapters described in the construction project, as well as independent technical supervision of the construction and health and safety coordination. The different phases are:

- T2.1 Earthworks. This task will consist of performing the earthworks required for the parking area, removing a layer of topsoil of an average thickness of 50 cm. A total volume of 41.876 m3 of topsoil will be removed.
- T2.2 Paving. This task will address the pavement of the roads and parking, sidewalks and islands excluded to traffic, sports and recreational areas and road connection.
- T2.3 Rainwater network. The rainwater network is made up of a series of corrugated PVC pipes of different diameters, concrete manholes at the beginning of the collectors and manholes every 50m. This network will collect the rainwater in the parking surface and discharge it at two independent points.
- T2.4 Sewage network. The planned sewerage network is separated from rainwater network. This network will collect the total flow of greywaters from the parking installations and discharge it to the public sewage network outside the parking plot.
- T2.5 Collection of flammable liquids. The SSTPA has a total of 18 parking spaces for vehicles with flammable dangerous goods. Spillage of flammable liquids that may be released by accident or fire extinction. This task will consist of the construction of the collection network and a storage tank of 150m3 for these liquids.
- T2.6 Supply and fire protection network. A water supply network for the parking will be constructed, including hydrants for fire extinction in the parking. The minimum flow rate to be obtained at any point in the network is set at 1000 litres/

minute, at 1 Kg/cm<sup>2</sup> of pressure, for the exclusive purpose of supplying the Service's vehicles. The distribution network is calculated to allow the simultaneous operation of at least 2 consecutive hydrants.

- T2.7 Irrigation network. An irrigation network for green areas will be constructed, connecting to the main network owned by the municipality. The irrigation network is designed mesh type and has with low-density polyethylene pipes of 63 mm diameter.
- T2.8 Electrical installation. The parking's electrical installation will be constructed in this task, consisting of a power distribution and switching transformer station, located next to the perimeter of the Murcia LAA, an underground medium-voltage network and another underground low-voltage network.
- T2.9 Exterior lighting installation. The lighting installation of the parking will be constructed, consisting of 20 m poles, lighting projectors, power supply network to each projector, and remote control panels. For the design, a minimum illumination level of 25 lux has been established in the SSTPA, and a minimum uniformity of 40%.
- T2.10 CCTV and intrusion control installation. The video surveillance system consists of a CCTV recording and management system that can manage alarms produced by video analytics.
- T2.11 Public address system. It will have the dual purpose of providing users with an alarm alert to make them aware of an incident and to persuade the offender through messages sent to the loudspeakers in case of detection of a sabotage or intrusion detected with the CCTV system. A network of surveillance video cameras and loudspeakers on the top of poles, connection wires, and equipment for recording and storage will be installed.
- T2.12 Communications installation. This task will consist of the installation of the required equipment for the telecommunications network, necessary to provide the SSTPA facilities with telephony, as well as the installation of the Wi-Fi wireless communication network covering the entire SSTPA.
- T2.13 Signage. This task consists of the installation of traffic and information signals inside the SSTPA, including horizontal and vertical signals. The general criterion for the implementation of the signage project will be clarity, simplicity and uniformity.
- T2.14 Recreation areas, landscaping, and street furniture. It will address the construction of green areas, pathways for walking and running, or outdoor rest areas.
- T2.15 Service booths. It includes the installation of booths for the SSTPA workers, rest rooms or toilets.
- T2.16 Enclosure and protection. It will address the necessary works for the perimeter walls and protection of the SSTPA.
- T2.17 Outdoor information. It will address the necessary work for the establishment of the ITS panels to provide information about the occupation of the SSTPA, in the high-capacity roads near to the Intermodal Terminal.
- T2.18 Waste management. It will address the waste management during the construction works.
- T2.19 Health and safety measures. It will be developed after the elaboration of the health and safety measures study.
- T2.20 Construction technical supervision. This task will address an independent technical monitoring of the works to ensure the quality of the works delivered.
- T2.21 Health and safety coordination. This task will consist of performing an independent coordination and supervision of the health and safety measures for the implementation of the construction works

#### **STAFF EFFORT**

Staff effort p	r participant
----------------	---------------

Grant Preparation (Work packages - Effort screen) — Enter the info.

Participant	WP1	WP2	<b>Total Person-Months</b>	
<b>Total Person-Months</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	

#### LIST OF DELIVERABLES

#### Deliverables

Grant Preparation (Deliverables screen) — Enter the info.

The labels used mean:

Public — fully open ( automatically posted online)

Sensitive — limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement

EU classified —RESTREINT-UE/EU-RESTRICTED, CONFIDENTIEL-UE/EU-CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET-UE/EU-SECRET under Decision 2015/444

Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Туре	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	Due Date (month)
D1.1	Communication & Dissemination Plan	WP1	1 - CARM	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	4
D1.2	Contingency Plan	WP1	1 - CARM	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	6
D1.3	Report on the implementation of the Communication & Dissemination activities	WP1	1 - CARM	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	25
D1.4	Progress report	WP1	1 - CARM	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	12
D1.5	Gold Level Certification	WP1	1 - CARM	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	25
D2.1	Certificate of receipt of the work.	WP2	1 - CARM	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	21

#### **Deliverable D1.1 – Communication & Dissemination Plan**

Deliverable Number	D1.1	Lead Beneficiary	1. CARM			
Deliverable Name	Communication & Dissemination Plan					
Туре	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive			
Due Date (month)	4	Work Package No	WP1			

#### **Description**

This plan will give visibility to the actions carried out and the support of the European Union, also seeking the engagement of the key sectors for the implementation of the global project. It is related to task 1.4. It will be developed in Spanish.

#### **Deliverable D1.2 – Contingency Plan**

Deliverable Number	D1.2		Lead Beneficiary	1. CARM		
Deliverable Name	Contingency Plan					
Туре	R — Document, report		<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive		
<b>Due Date (month)</b>		6	Work Package No	WP1		

#### **Description**

The document will assess the project risk management, identifying the possible risks and constraints derived from the development of the proposed action. It will include internal and external events that may have negative impacts on the action execution and its results, as well as the risks derived from the socio-economic environment. It is related to task 1.3. It will be developed in Spanish.

## **Deliverable D1.3 – Report on the implementation of the Communication & Dissemination activities**

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D1.3	Lead Beneficiary	1. CARM		
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Report on the implementation of the Communication & Dissemination activities				
Туре	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive		
Due Date (month)	25	Work Package No	WP1		

#### Description

The document will assess the project communication and dissemination activities results, including audience reached, main activities developed, main impacts achieved and lessons learned. It is related to task 1.5. It will be developed in Spanish.

#### Deliverable D1.4 - Progress report

Deliverable Number	D1.4	Lead Beneficiary	1. CARM					
Deliverable Name	Progress report							
Туре	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive					
Due Date (month)	12	Work Package No	WP1					

#### Description

The progress report will cover the first 12 months of the project. It will be developed in English.

#### **Deliverable D1.5 – Gold Level Certification**

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D1.5	Lead Beneficiary	1. CARM				
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Gold Level Certification						
Туре	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive				
Due Date (month)	25	Work Package No	WP1				

#### Description

The document will certify the obtention of the Gold Level Certification for the SSTPA

#### Deliverable D2.1 – Certificate of receipt of the work.

Deliverable Number	D2.1	Lead Beneficiary	1. CARM					
Deliverable Name	Certificate of receipt of the work.							
Туре	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive					
Due Date (month)	21	Work Package No	WP2					

#### Description

The document will certify the works have been received by CARM. It will be delivered in Spanish.

#### **LIST OF MILESTONES**

#### Milestones

Grant Preparation (Milestones screen) — Enter the info.

Milestone No	Milestone Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Means of Verification	Due Date (month)
1	Kick off meeting	WP1	1-CARM	Minutes of the meeting	1
2	Steering Comitee meeting #2	WP1	1-CARM	Minutes of the meeting	7
3	Steering Comitee meeting #3	WP1	1-CARM	Minutes of the meeting	13
4	Steering Comitee meeting #4	WP1	1-CARM	Minutes of the meeting	19
5	Completion of the project	WP1	1-CARM	Final report	25
6	Communication & Dissemination Plan ready for implementation	WP1	1-CARM	D1.1. submitted	4
7	Tender procurement	WP1	1-CARM	Contract for the construction works signed	6
8	Beginning of the construction works	WP2	1-CARM Certificate of start of works issued		8
9	Earthworks and Drainage completed	WP2	1-CARM  The report accompanying the invoice refers to completion of earthworks and drainage stages		13
10	Completion of the construction works	WP2	1-CARM Certificate of receipt of the works carried out		21

#### LIST OF CRITICAL RISKS

#### Critical risks & risk management strategy

Grant Preparation (Critical Risks screen) — Enter the info.

Risk number	Description	Work Package No(s)	Proposed Mitigation Measures
1	Delay in public procurement process (low)	WP1	Exhaustive monitoring of deadlines by the contracting authority. The deadlines for task 1.6 are buffored to cope with unforeseen events.
2	Construction works delay due to subcontractor problems (medium)	WP2	All subcontracts shall include strict time schedules for meeting the deadlines.
3	Detection of possible affected services not previously known (low)	WP2	Search for an appropriate technical solution to restore the service as soon as possible.
4	Problems with materials supply (medium)	WP2	Adequate monitoring of the work schedule and forecasting of orders according to current delivery schedules by the contractor.
5	Delays due to possible political changes in state or regional governments (low)	WP2, WP1	Political changes should not affect the implementation of projects.  It is a supported project and a priority for the Regional Government as well as for the transport sector. The importance of the project will be presented to the political sector from the technical level in order to avoid possible delays.
6	Gold level certification not achieved (medium)	WP1	The SSTPA will be developed by carefully following the Gold level certification standards. In addition, the project has contemplated three-month buffer after the construction work is completed to obtain the certification, in case some improvements need to be made due to an unfavourable result.
7	Problems in the expropriation process (low)	WP2, WP1	The process has been declared of public interest, which streamlines it. The Declaration of urgent land occupation has been published and all disputes have been already answered.
8	Increase in the price of materials (medium)	WP2	Adequate monitoring of the work schedule and forecasting of orders according to market prices.

#### ANNEX 1

#### DETAILED BUDGET BREAKDOWN PER REPORTING PERIOD

	Estimated eligible costs (per budget category)								Estimated EU contribution											
		Direct costs  Indirect costs								EU contribution to eligible costs		Total								
	A	. Personnel cos	ts	B. Subcontracting costs		(	C. Purchase cos	sts			D. 0	Other cost categ	gories		E. Indirect costs	Total costs	Funding rate %	Maximum EU contribution	Requested EU contribution	requested EU contribution
	A.1 Employee equivalent)		A.4 SME owners and natural		C.1	Γravel and subsis	stence	C.2 Equipment	C.3 Other goods, works and services	D.1 Financial support to third parties	D.2 Studies	D.3 Synergetic elements	D.4 Works in outermost regions	D.5 Land purchases						
	A.2 Natural pedirect contract  A.3 Seconded		person beneficiaries		Travel	Accommodation	Subsistence													
Forms of funding	Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices)	Unit costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Flat- rate costs					
	al	a2	a3	b	cla	clb	clc	c2	c3	dla	d2	d3	d4	d5	e <sup>1</sup>	f = a+b+c+d	V, W, X	g <sup>2</sup>	h	m
Reporting period 1																				
1 - CARM	115 000.00	0.00	0.00	9 800 383.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9 915 383.00	50, 0, 70	4 957 691.50	4 957 691.00	4 957 691.00
Total	115 000.00	0.00	0.00	9 800 383.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9 915 383.00		4 957 691.50	4 957 691.00	4 957 691.00

 $<sup>^{1}</sup>$  e = flat-rate \* (a1 + a2 + a3 + b + c1a + c1b + c1c + c2 + c3 + d1a + d2 + d3 + d4 + d5)

 $<sup>^{2}</sup> g = (a1 + a2 + a3) * V\% + b * V\% + (c1a + c1b + c1c + c2 + c3) * V\% + (d1a + d3 + d5) * V\% + d2 * W\% + d4 * X\% + e * V\%$ 

#### START (DETAILED BUDGET TABLE PER WP)

	PROJECT DATA	
Project number:	101122631	
Project acronym:	MURCIA SAFF4TRUCKS	

# Work package nameFunding RatePROJECT MANAGEMENT AND DISSEMINATION50%PARKING CONSTRUCTION WORKS50%

Participant name

Consejeria de Fomento e Infraestructuras de la Región de Murcia

#### **DETAILED BUDGET TABLE PER WP**

PROJECT DATA	
Project number:	101122631
Project acronym:	MURCIA SAFE4TRUCKS

#### **BUDGET BREAKDOWN PER WORK PACKAGE AND PARTICIPANT**

Reporting period can be added/deleted as needed

Work Package	Participant	Reporting period 1	Reporting period 2	Total costs	Funding rate (for work package)	EU contribution
PROJECT	Consejeria de					
MANAGEMENT AND	Fomento e			322.000,00	50%	161.000
DISSEMINATION	Infraestructuras de la	322.000,00€				
PARKING	Consejeria de					
CONSTRUCTION	Fomento e			9.593.383,00	50%	4.796.691,00
WORKS	Infraestructuras de la	9.593.383,00€				
Total		9.915.383,00	0,00	9.915.383,00	50%	4.957.691,00

Summary per work package

				Sum of		
	Reporting		Reporting	Total	Sum of EU	
Etiquetas de fila	period_1	FP RP_1	period_2	costs	contribution	Suma de FP RP 2
PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND DISSEMINATION	322.000	100%		322.000	161.000	-
PARKING CONSTRUCTION WORKS	9.593.383	100%		9.593.383	4.796.691	-
Total general	9.915.383	100%		9.915.383	4.957.691	-

**Summary per Participant** 

	Reporting	Reporting	Sum of Total	Sum of EU
Etiquetas de fila	period_1	period_2	costs	contribution
Consejeria de Fomento e Infraestructuras de la Región de Murcia	9.915.383,00		9.915.383,00	4.957.691,00
Total general	9.915.383,00		9.915.383,00	4.957.691,00

#	EU CONTRIBUTION	TOTAL COSTS
ENCODE VALUE FROM EGRANTS	4.957.691,00€	9.915.383,00€
DIFFERENCE	- €	- €





## Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)

## Description of the action (DoA) Part B

Version 1.0 o1 September 2021

HISTORY OF CHANGES			
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE	
1.0	11.07.2023	Initial version	
2.0	25.09.2023	Final version	

#### **DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION (PART B)**

#### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION (PART B)	2
0. PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
ANNEXES	

#### **0. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

#### Project description, scope and objectives

Describe the project scope, main goals and objectives, as well as the technical data.

Please use the following structure:

- Overall objective
- General description and context describe the context, including political priorities and if the project is part
  of a bigger project ('global project', including projects of common interest)
- Location mention where on the network/corridors the project will be implemented
- Justification describe the current situation and needs analysis
- Specific objectives list and link them to the work packages used in section 6
- Expected outcomes and results include facts and statistics (for instance, quantitative information expressed in km, MVA, Bcm/y, kV, bar, etc.).

The objective of the project is the construction of a Secure Truck Parking Area (SSTPA), next to the Core Network, in the Murcia-Almeria section of the Mediterranean Corridor. This infrastructure will be a benchmark for safe and secure parking in the Region of Murcia and in the southeast of Spain. It will have a surface area of 8,4 ha and will count with 415 parking spaces for heavy goods vehicles. Specifically, it counts with a zoning the site for 290 general goods vehicles, 42 refrigerated vehicles, 18 flammable vehicles, and 25 non-flammable hazardous vehicles. It will also include a reserved space for drivers to park their private vehicles safely, with 31 car parking spaces.

The project aims to improve freight parking capacity in south-eastern Spain and to address the growing challenges related to safety and unattractive working conditions leading to driver shortages and an ageing workforce. A truck driver spends most of his or her time in the cab of a truck, in warehouses, intermodal terminals or parking/restaurant areas along highways. It is therefore of paramount importance that these environments provide an adequate level of safety, comfort, and dignity. Unattractive working conditions and inadequate security affect the attractiveness of work and recruitment and ultimately the prosperity of the sector. In addition, cargo crime causes substantial financial and reputational losses to supply chain operators, as the European road freight sector remains an attractive target for cargo thieves and traffickers.

Therefore, the SSTPA has been designed to be certified at Gold Level (EU Parking), according to the EU Standard for Safe and Secure Truck Parking Areas regulated by the <u>Commission Delegated Regulation</u> 2022/1012, which provides positive impact to several aspects such:

They improve drivers' rest conditions, improving working conditions

- They increase safety during the journey, securing the goods being transported
- They create an attractive and suitable environment for drivers, bringing dignity to the sector

Particularly for the Region of Murcia, the transport sector has been one of the main elements for its economic dynamism.

The Region of Murcia has more than 7.000 registered companies and a fleet of heavy goods vehicles that exceeds 12.500 vehicles, together with 25.000 goods transport and distribution vehicles. In this sense, Murcia ranks alongside Barcelona, Madrid, and Valencia among the Spanish regions with the largest fleet of vehicles for the transport of goods, with a constant increase in operations. Transport is, therefore one of the backbones of the regional economy. The sector generates 100.000 jobs and is constantly growing.

The Safe Parking for Trucks (SSTPA) in the Murcia Logistics Activity Area (LAA) is located in the municipality of Murcia, 8 kilometres south-west of the urban node. The area is included within the scope of the Territorial Action Program (TAP) of the Intermodal Terminal and Logistics Activities Area of Murcia (LAA Murcia-Medfood), which plans and projects were developed in the framework of the previous CEF funded project (Action CEF 2014-ES-TM-0253-S).

The SSTPA is bordered to the north by land earmarked for the Intermodal Terminal and the terminal logistics area; to the south and west, by green areas; and to the east by a perimeter access road.

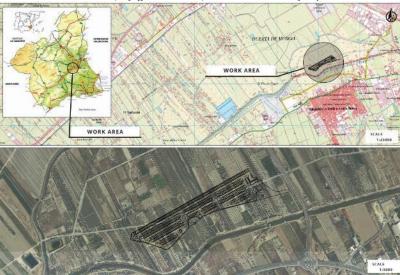


Figure 1. Location of the SSTPA

The SSTPA is conceived to serve the users of the Mediterranean Corridor, and those connecting to the Maritime Port of Cartagena (also a basic node of the Mediterranean Corridor). Besides, the STTPA will serve users of the Intermodal Terminal located in the LAA of Murcia (currently under construction). In addition, the SSTPA will be located in the scope of the Territorial Action Program (TAP) of the Intermodal Terminal and Logistics Activities Area of Murcia (LAA Murcia-Medfood). These areas will form part of the City of Food and Transport (CAT) of the Region of Murcia. The current infrastructures of the City of Transport, suffers secure parking scarcity, and there is a growing interest from companies in the establishment of new parking areas complying with safety requirements as the SSTPA of this project action does.

The Intermodal Terminal and Logistics Activities Area of Murcia, where the Safe Parking Area for Trucks (SSTPA) is to be located, constitutes a strategic supra-regional logistics node due to its strategic connection, consisting of one of the basic nodes of the Core Network of the Mediterranean Corridor (TEN-E). The A-7 Mediterranean motorway supports a heavy vehicle IMD (more than 7.000 vehicles), according to the DGC Traffic Map for 2019. The closest certified safe and secure car park (SSTPA) to the location of this Project is located 583 km away, in the vicinity of the city of Barcelona, and there is no SSTPAs neither south way from Murcia. Thus, there is a lack of SSTPAs in the Mediterranean Corridor.

The specific objectives of this action are:

To develop the Safe Parking for Trucks (SSTPA) in the Murcia Logistics Activity Area (LAA). The construction project is already developed, therefore, CARM will launch a public procurement process during the first months of the project to select the company in charge of the works (Task 1.6). The construction works will follow this process and will be ready by August 2025 (Work Package 2).

- To obtain the Gold Level certification of the SSTPA. To this aim, all the construction works will be carried out considering the standards of the EU Standard for Safe and Secure Truck Parking Areas regulated by the <a href="Commission Delegated Regulation 2022/1012">Commission Delegated Regulation 2022/1012</a>. In addition, an external auditor will be contracted and to get the certification, which will be obtained once the constructions works are finished (Task 1.7).
- To coordinate and monitor the technical progress and quality of the developed works, as well as evaluating project risks and proposing mitigation measures (Tasks 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3).
- To communicate and disseminate project achievements to relevant stakeholders and society (Tasks 1.4 and 1.5).

The development of the Safe Parking for Trucks (SSTPA) in the LAA Murcia will lead to the following results:

- Creation of 415 parking spaces in a high-quality parking
- Gold EU parking certification obtention
- Improvement of the attractiveness of Murcia as a reference point for trucks
- Increased attractiveness of the sector to potential workers
- Reduction of crime in the sector
- Improvement of the quality of life for truck drivers

#### Global projects

If the project is part of a global project (including projects of common interest (PCI), if applicable), provide the following information:

- Objectives of the global project
- General description and context specify how the project fits into the global project
- Justification problems, needs and issues addressed by the global project
- State of play, results and objectives achieved by the global project so far
- Parallel projects describe which other parts of the global project are to be implemented in parallel and their links to the project
- Timetable describe the timetable of the global project and the interdependence with the timetable of the project; explain how the project will impact the progress of other activities which are part of the global project.

The development of the SSTPA is included in the Logistic Activity Area of Murcia, which main objective is to establish the Murcia Logistics Node. The Murcia Logistics Node is seen as a priority within the trans-European transport network, and included in the Mediterranean Corridor. This will allow to increase the competitiveness of companies and to increase economic activity and jobs through the efficient, sustainable and added-value combined transport system (by developing rail intermodality and the logistical activity), integrating the Region in European distribution and trade networks. Specifically, the global project aims to:

- The introduction of new intermodal services in the Murcia Region
- The increase of co-modality in the Murcia Region, improving the modal rebalance, favoring the raise of integral operators, and thus an improved marketing and distribution supply
- The development of logistical activity through the implementation of first level logistical node in the Central Area of Murcia and connected to the Mediterranean Corridor

The beneficiary, the Regional Ministry of Development and Infrastructures (CARM), is also Coordinator of two previous projects related to the global one:

- "Production of studies and plans needed for the development of an intermodal terminal and the associated Logistics Activity Area for the integration of goods transportation by road and rail (Murcia LAA)", funded by the CEF programme (Action CEF 2014-ES-TM-0253-S) which concluded in December 2022.
- "Intermodal terminal of Murcia and its rail link (IT Murcia)", funded by the CEF-2 programme (Project 101079672 — 21-ES-TG-IT MURCIA) which started in October 2022 and will last until November 2025, aiming the construction of the core infrastructures of the LAA, that is the

EU Grants: Description of the action (DoA) — Annex 1 (CEF): V1.0 - 01.09.2021

Intermodal Terminal and its Rail Connection to the Mediterranean Corridor. This project develops the infrastructure adjacent to the SSTPA, without overlapping or interferring with the STTPA.

The Action will implement a key infrastructure of the global project, that is, the Safe Parking for Trucks (SSTPA) in the LAA of Murcia. As it is to be located next to the Intermodal Terminal and inside the Agrofood and Transport City of Murcia (CAT), it will be a key part of the global project. The SSTPA will serve, not only to the drivers of the Mediterranean Corridor, but also to the users of the Intermodal Terminal and the whole LAA, increasing the attractiveness of the LAA itself, and vice versa.



Figure 2. 3D infographics of the future City of Food and Transport of the Region of Murcia.

Project: [101122631] — [MURCIA SAFE4TRUCKS] — [CEF-T-2022-SAFEMOBGEN]

EU Grants: Description of the action (DoA) — Annex 1 (CEF): V1.0 - 01.09.2021

#@ETH-ICS-EI@#

# **ANNEXES**

# **LIST OF ANNEXES**

 ${\bf Subcontracting\ table-} {\it mandatory\ (n/a\ for\ Lump\ Sum\ and\ Unit\ Grants)}$ 

#### SUBCONTRACTING TABLE

#### Subcontracting

Give details on subcontracted action tasks (if any).

Subcontracts must be awarded using your usual purchasing practices – provided that they ensure best value for money and no conflict of interests. If you are a 'contracting authority/entity' within the meaning of the EU Directives on public procurement, you must also comply with the applicable national law on public procurement.

Note: The coordinator remains fully responsible for the coordination tasks, even if they are delegated to someone else. Coordinator tasks cannot be subcontracted.

Task number to be subcontracted (follow the numbering in the grant agreement)	Name of task to be subcontracted	Description (Describe briefly the part of the task to be subcontracted and indicate the BEN/AE responsible)	Estimated Costs (EUR)
T1.2	Administrative management of the project	A contract will be made for the support in the administrative management aspects of the project. A company with experience in EU and CEF projects will be contracted for this purpose (45.000€). In addition, an external auditor contract for the certification of project expenses by the end of the project will be made (6.000€).	51.000€
T1.4	Development of the STTPA Communication and Dissemination Plan	Development of the Communication & Dissemination Plan for the whole project implementation.	25.000€
T1.5	Implementation of STTPA Communication and Dissemination activities	Support for Dissemination and Communication activities. It will include the development and monitoring of the activities along the whole project implementation and the development of different materials for communication campaigns, videos, infographics, posters, conference organization, etc.	125.000€
T1.7	SSTPA Gold level certification	An audit company will be hired for the Certification of SSTPA with Gold Level.	6.000€
T2.1	Earthworks	To perform the earthworks required for the development of the infrastructure. All the work under the task will be subcontracted.	841.751 €
T2.2	Paving	To perform the paving parking works. All the work under the task will be subcontracted.	2.906.445€

T2.3	Rainwater network	To perform the rainwater network infrastructure. All the work under the task will be subcontracted.	203.499 €
T2.4	Sewage network	To perform the separate sewage network of the project. All the work under the task will be subcontracted.	174.155€
T2.5	Collection of flammable liquids	To perform the collection system for flammable liquids associated with the 18 spaces reserved for this type of vehicle. All the work under the task will be subcontracted.	38.778 €
T2.6	Supply and fire protection network	To perform the supply and fire protection network considering the possibility of using two hydrants at the same time. All the work under the task will be subcontracted.	70.343 €
T2.7	Irrigation network	To perform a meshed irrigation network with the principles of easy access and repair. All the work under the task will be subcontracted.	104.916 €
T2.8	Electrical installation	To perform the electrical installation. There will be an underground medium-voltage network, and another network, also underground, for low voltage. All the work under the task will be subcontracted.	752.471 €
T2.9	Exterior lighting installation	To perform the lighting installation of the SSTPA. All the work under the task will be subcontracted.	1.108.359€
T2.10	CCTV and intrusion control installation	To perform the video surveillance system, including a CCTV recording and management system to manage alarms produced by video analytics. All the work under the task will be subcontracted.	305.456 €
T2.11	Public address system	To perform the public address system to provide users with an alarm alert to make them aware of an incident and to persuade the offender through messages sent to the loudspeakers in case of detection of sabotage or intrusion detected with the CCTV system. All the work under the task will be subcontracted.	84.137 €
T2.12	Communications installation	To perform the channelled telecommunications network necessary to provide the SSTPA installations with telephony; as well as the installation of the Wi-Fi wireless communication network covering the entire car park. All the work under the task will be subcontracted.	222.792 €

T2.13	Signage	To perform the signage of the SSTPA following the main principles of clarity, simplicity and uniformity. All the work under the task will be subcontracted.	18.692 €
T2.14	Recreation areas, landscaping, and street furniture	To perform all the recreation areas of the project including the establishment of street furniture and the landscape works. All the work under the task will be subcontracted.	100.608 €
T2.15	Service booths	To establish the service booths of the SSTPA in accordance to project needs. All the work under the task will be subcontracted.	1.187.025€
T2.16	Enclosure and protection	To perform the design of the fence of the SSTPA in accordance to Gold level certificate. All the work under the task will be subcontracted.	639.589 €
T2.17	Outdoor information	To perform the outdoor information system. All the work under the task will be subcontracted.	216.502 €
T2.18	Waste management	To perform the proper waste management of the works according to law in force and as designed in the construction project. All the work under the task will be subcontracted.	248.043 €
T2.19	Health and safety	To include all the required health and safety measures during the works. All the work under the task will be subcontracted.	135.838 €
T2.20	Construction Technical Supervision	To perform an independent technical monitoring of the works to ensure the quality of the works delivered. All the work under the task will be subcontracted.	116.992 €
T2.21	Health and Safety Supervision	To perform an independent coordination and supervision of the health and safety measures of the works. All the work under the task will be subcontracted.	116.992 €

#### ANNEX 2

# ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR THE ACTION

							Estimated	l eligible <sup>1</sup> cos	ts (per budget	category)								Estimated EU	contribution	2
						Direct costs  Ind											EU contribution to eligible costs			Maximum
	A. Personnel costs			B. Subcontractin costs	n. C. Purchase costs				D. Other cost categories					E. Indirect costs <sup>3</sup>	Total costs	Funding rate % <sup>4</sup>	Maximum EU contribution <sup>5</sup>	EU	grant amount <sup>6</sup>	
	A.1 Employe equivalent)	ees (or	A.4 SME owners and natural	B. Subcontraction	ng C.1 Ti	ravel and subsi	stence	C.2 Equipment	C.3 Other goods, works and	Financial	D.2 Studies	D.3 Synergetic elements		D.5 Land purchases	E. Indirect costs					
	A.2 Natural p	et		3	Travel A	Accommodatio	Subsistence		services	support to third parties		elements	regions							
	A.3 Seconder	Unit costs																		
Forms of funding	Actual costs	(usual accounting practices)	Unit costs <sup>7</sup>	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Flat-rate costs <sup>8</sup>					
	a1	a2	a3	b	cla	c1b	clc	c2	c3	dla	d2	d3	d4	d5	e <sup>9</sup>	f = a +b+c+d	V, W, X	g <sup>10</sup>	h	m
1 - CARM	115 000.00	0.00	0.00	9 800 383.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9 915 383.00	50, 0, 70	4 957 691.50	4 957 691.00	4 957 691.00

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Article 6 for the eligibility conditions. All amounts must be expressed in EUR (see Article 21 for the conversion rules).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The consortium remains free to decide on a different internal distribution of the EU funding (via the consortium agreement; see Article 7).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Indirect costs already covered by an operating grant (received under any EU funding programme) are ineligible (see Article 6.3). Therefore, a beneficiary/affiliated entity that receives an operating grant during the action duration cannot declare indirect costs for the year(s)/reporting period(s) covered by the operating grant, unless they can demonstrate that the operating grant does not cover any costs of the action. This requires specific accounting tools. Please immediately contact us via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal for details.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See Data Sheet for the funding rate(s).

This is the theoretical amount of the EU contribution to costs, if the reimbursement rate is applied to all the budgeted costs. This theoretical amount is then capped by the 'maximum grant amount'.

The 'maximum grant amount' is the maximum grant amount decided by the EU. It normally corresponds to the requested grant, but may be lower.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See Annex 2a 'Additional information on the estimated budget' for the details (units, cost per unit).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> See Data Sheet for the flat-rate.

 $<sup>^{9}</sup>$  e = flat-rate \* (a1 + a2 + a3 + b + c1a + c1b + c1c + c2 + c3 + d1a + d2 + d3 + d4 + d5)

 $<sup>^{10}</sup> g = (a1 + a2 + a3) * V\% + b * V\% + (c1a + c1b + c1c + c2 + c3) * V\% + (d1a + d3 + d5) * V\% + d2 * W\% + d4 * X\% + e * V\% + d2 * W\% + d4 * X\% + d4 * W\% + d4 * W$ 

# ANNEX 2a

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON UNIT COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

# SME owners/natural person beneficiaries without salary

See Additional information on unit costs and contributions (Annex 2a and 2b)

#### ANNEX 4 CEF MGA — MULTI + MONO

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR [PARTICIPANT NAME] FOR REPORTING PERIOD [NUMBER]

		Eligible <sup>1</sup> costs (per budget category)							EU contribution <sup>2</sup>											
		Direct costs										Indirect costs		E						
		A. Personnel cos	its	B. Subcontracting costs	; C. Purchase costs				D. Other cost categories					E. Indirect costs <sup>2</sup>	Total costs	Funding rate % <sup>3</sup>	Maximum EU contribution 4	Requested EU contribution	Total requested EU contribution	
	A.1 Employees (or e	equivalent)	A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries	B. Subcontracting	c	.1 Travel and subsistence			C.3 Other goods, works and services	D.X Financial support to third parties	Projects: D.2	Infrastructure Projects: D.3	[OPTION for Infrastructure Projects: D.4 Works in outermost regions]	[OPTION for Infrastructure Projects: D.5 Land purchases]	E. Indirect costs					
	A.2 Natural persons A.3 Seconded perso	under direct contract			Travel	Accommodation	Subsistence													
Forms of funding	Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices	Unit costs 5	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	[Actual costs]	[ Actual costs]	[Actual costs]	[ Actual costs]	Flat-rate costs 6					
	a1	a2	a3	b	cia	c1b	cic	c2	з	d1a	[d2]	[d3]	[d4]	[d5]	e = flat-rate * (a1 + a2 + a3 + b +c1a + c1b + c1c + c2 + c3 + d1a [+ d2][+ d3][+ d4][+ d5])	f= a+b+c+d+e	[U] [V, W, X]	[g = f*U%] [g = (a1 + a2 + a3) * V% + b *V% + (+c1a + c1b + c1c + c2 + c3) *V% + (d1a + d3 + d5)*V% + d2*W% + d4*X% + e*V%]	h	m
IX – [short name beneficiary/affiliated entity]																				

_
Revenues
Income generated by the action
n

The beneficiary/affiliated entity hereby confirms that:

information provided is complete, reliable and t

The costs and contributions declared are eligible (see Article 6).

The costs and contributions can be substantiated by adequate records and supporting documentation that will be produced upon request or in the context of checks, reviews, audits and investigations (see Articles 19, 20 and 25).

For the last reporting period: that all the revenues have been declared (see Article 22).

Please declare all eligible costs and contributions, even if they exceed the amounts indicated in the estimated budget (see Annex 2). Only amounts that were declared in your individual financial statements can be taken into account lateron, in order to replace costs/contributions that are found to be ineligible.

 $<sup>^{1}</sup>$  See Article 6 for the eligibility conditions. All amounts must be expressed in EUR (see Article 21 for the conversion rules).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> If you have also received an EU operating grant during this reporting period, you cannot claim indirect costs - unless you can demonstrate that the operating grant does not cover any costs of the action. This requires specific accounting tools. Please contact us immediately via the Funding & Tenders Portal for details.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See Data Sheet for the reimbursement rate(s).

<sup>4</sup> This is the theoretical amount of EU contribution to costs that the system calculates automatically (by multiplying the reimbursement rates by the costs declared). The amount you request (in the column 'requested EU contribution') may be less.

See Annex 2a 'Additional information on the estimated budget' for the details (units, cost per unit).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> See Data Sheet for the flat-rate.

#### **SPECIFIC RULES**

## CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY (— ARTICLE 13)

#### Sensitive information with security recommendation

Sensitive information with a security recommendation must comply with the additional requirements imposed by the granting authority.

Before starting the action tasks concerned, the beneficiaries must have obtained all approvals or other mandatory documents needed for implementing the task. The documents must be kept on file and be submitted upon request by the coordinator to the granting authority. If they are not in English, they must be submitted together with an English summary.

For requirements restricting disclosure or dissemination, the information must be handled in accordance with the recommendation and may be disclosed or disseminated only after written approval from the granting authority.

#### **EU** classified information

If EU classified information is used or generated by the action, it must be treated in accordance with the security classification guide (SCG) and security aspect letter (SAL) set out in Annex 1 and Decision 2015/444<sup>1</sup> and its implementing rules — until it is declassified.

Deliverables which contain EU classified information must be submitted according to special procedures agreed with the granting authority.

Action tasks involving EU classified information may be subcontracted only with prior explicit written approval from the granting authority and only to entities established in an EU Member State or in a non-EU country with a security of information agreement with the EU (or an administrative arrangement with the Commission).

EU classified information may not be disclosed to any third party (including participants involved in the action implementation) without prior explicit written approval from the granting authority.

# INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) — BACKGROUND AND RESULTS — ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE (— ARTICLE 16)

1

Commission Decision 2015/444/EC, Euratom of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

# Rights of use of the granting authority on results for information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes

The granting authority also has the right to exploit non-sensitive results of the action for information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes, using any of the following modes:

- **use for its own purposes** (in particular, making them available to persons working for the granting authority or any other EU service (including institutions, bodies, offices, agencies, etc.) or EU Member State institution or body; copying or reproducing them in whole or in part, in unlimited numbers; and communication through press information services)
- **distribution to the public** in hard copies, in electronic or digital format, on the internet including social networks, as a downloadable or non-downloadable file
- **editing** or **redrafting** (including shortening, summarising, changing, correcting, cutting, inserting elements (e.g. meta-data, legends or other graphic, visual, audio or text elements) extracting parts (e.g. audio or video files), dividing into parts or use in a compilation
- translation (including inserting subtitles/dubbing) in all official languages of EU
- **storage** in paper, electronic or other form
- **archiving** in line with applicable document-management rules
- the right to authorise **third parties** to act on its behalf or sub-license to third parties, including if there is licensed background, any of the rights or modes of exploitation set out in this provision
- processing, analysing, aggregating the results and producing derivative works
- **disseminating** the results in widely accessible databases or indexes (such as through 'open access' or 'open data' portals or similar repositories, whether free of charge or not.

The beneficiaries must ensure these rights of use for the whole duration they are protected by industrial or intellectual property rights.

If results are subject to moral rights or third party rights (including intellectual property rights or rights of natural persons on their image and voice), the beneficiaries must ensure that they comply with their obligations under this Agreement (in particular, by obtaining the necessary licences and authorisations from the rights holders concerned).

#### COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY (— ARTICLE 17)

## Communication and dissemination plan

Where imposed by the call conditions, the beneficiaries must provide a detailed communication and dissemination plan, setting out the objectives, key messaging, target audiences, communication channels, social media plan, planned budget and relevant indicators for monitoring and evaluation. Additional communication and dissemination activities

The beneficiaries must engage in the following additional communication and dissemination activities:

- **present the project** (including project summary, coordinator contact details, list of participants, European flag and funding statement and project results) on the beneficiaries' **websites** or **social media accounts**
- for actions involving equipment, infrastructure or works, display public **plaques** or **billboards** as soon as the work on the action starts and a **permanent commemorative plaque** once it is finished, with the European flag and funding statement
- upload the public **project results** to the CEF Project Results platform, available through the Funding & Tenders Portal.

# SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION (— ARTICLE 18)

#### **Member State information**

The beneficiaries must keep the Member States that support the action informed about its progress.

To this effect, the coordinator must provide the reports submitted in accordance with Article 21 to the concerned the Member States representatives (listed on the granting authority's website). This can be done either by email or by giving them access to the reports in the Funding & Tenders Portal.

#### Implementation in case of restrictions due to security

Where the call conditions restrict participation or control due to security reasons, the beneficiaries must ensure that none of the entities that participate as affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties are established in countries which are not eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions (or are controlled by such countries or entities from such countries).

The beneficiaries must moreover ensure that any cooperation with entities established in countries which are not eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions (or are controlled by such countries or entities from such countries) does not affect the security interests and avoids potential negative effects over security of supply of inputs critical to the action.

#### Specific rules for digital infrastructure projects

When implementing digital infrastructure projects, the beneficiaries must ensure that the network technologies and equipment (including software and services) funded by the action comply with the security requirements and assessments as reflected in the applicable EU, international and national law on cybersecurity and on data protection.

Moreover, where the call conditions impose wholesale access obligations, the beneficiaries must provide wholesale access to the digital infrastructure funded by the action, under fair and

reasonable conditions, in a non-discriminatory manner and in accordance with the call conditions.

#### **Specific rules for ATM common projects**

When implementing actions for the implementation of common projects established under Regulation (EU) No 409/2013<sup>2</sup>, the beneficiaries must ensure that their actions comply with the deployment programme referred to in Article 11 of that Regulation (as published on the Europa website).

#### **Durability**

Unless exempted by the granting authority, the beneficiaries must commit to continue to use and maintain after the end of the action equipment bought and fully reimbursed by the action, for activities pursuing the action's objectives. Such equipment must be used for these purposes — for at least five years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1) or until the end of its economic lifespan (i.e. until it has been fully depreciated) — whichever is earlier.

## **Specific rules for blending operations**

When implementing blending operations, the beneficiaries acknowledge and accept that:

- the grant depends on the approved financing from the Implementing Partner and/or public or private investors for the project
- they must inform the granting authority both about the approval for financing and the financial close within 15 days
- both actions will be managed and monitored in parallel and in close coordination with the Implementing Partner, in particular:
  - all information, data and documents (including the due diligence by the Implementing Partner and the signed agreement) may be exchanged and may be relied on for the management of the other action (if needed)
  - issues in one action may impact the other (e.g. suspension or termination in one action may lead to suspension also of the other action; termination of the grant will normally suspend and exit from further financing and vice versa, etc.)
- the granting authority may disclose confidential information also to the Implementing Partner.

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 409/2013 of 3 May 2013 on the definition of common projects, the establishment of governance and the identification of incentives supporting the implementation of the European Air Traffic Management Master Plan (OJ L 123, 4.5.2013, p. 1).