

European Regional Policy

PACA Regional Council



**9 e 10 maggio 2013
a Firenze – Fortezza da Basso**

Deputy DG International Relations & European Affairs

MED Managing Authority

MED Joint Technical Secretariat

Representative office in Brussels

General Secretariat

European Affairs Directorate

European Funding Management Department

European Funding Coordination Unit

ERDF

MED National Authority

ESF

EAFRD

Department of International and Mediterranean Relations

Territorial Cooperation Department

External Relations Department

Humanitarian Unit

The 2007-2013 Programming Period

Programmes refocused on the **Lisbon** strategy (Research, Innovation, Economic Development) and the **Gothenburg** Strategy (Environment, Sustainable Development and Risk Prevention)

Regional programmes for the entire area (an end to zoning)

INTERREG Community Initiative becomes the focus of European territorial cooperation

‘Competitiveness and Employment’ Objective

ERDF

ESF

“European Territorial Cooperation” Objective

ERDF

Plan de Développement Rural Hexagonal (PDRH – French Rural Development Plan)

ERDF

“Massif des Alpes” & “Rhône” Inter-regional Operational Programmes

Intentionally dovetails with the State-Region Projects Contract

**cooperation European territorial
programmes in PACA**

French-Italian cross-border:

ALCOTRA 2007-2013

Transnational: ALPINE Space II

MED Programme

Inter-regional: Interreg IV C

**European Neighbourhood and Partnership
Instrument /Mediterranean Sea Basin**

Key challenges for the period 2007-2013

- Strengthen the strategic guidance of European regional policy
- Consolidate expertise in European regulatory functions
- Strengthen strategic coordination in facilitating European territorial cooperation programmes
- Scale-up Regional Council investment in European projects

Key challenges for the period

- Facilitation
- Monitoring – Management - Controls

PACA Regional Council performs several functions:

- ✓ Managing Authority(MED Programme)
- ✓ National Authority (MED Programme)
- ✓ Intermediate body (ERDF, ESF global grants for the 2007-2013 Operational Programmes)
- ✓ Lead partner(Operational directorates/departments)
- ✓ Partner (Operational directorates/departments)

**Global Grant
Development of Innovation and Information
ERDF Operational Programme 2007-2013**

and

**Global Grant
Training activities for young and adult jobseekers
ESF Operational Programme 2007-2013**

2007-2013 ERDF Operational Programme subject areas administered by global grants

As part of a regional consultation, the Regional Council opted to manage 6 subject areas (or measures) for intervention split between the two main priorities of the ERDF OP:

Priority 1: Promote innovation and the knowledge economy

- Measure 1-4: **Support innovative projects delivered by high-potential micro and SME's (€7M ERDF)**
- Measure 1-5: **Organise and coordinate the Regional Innovation Network (€18M ERDF)**
- Measure 1-6: **Financial engineering (€8M ERDF)**

Priority 2 : Develop businesses and the information society to improve regional competitiveness

- Measure 2-1: **Foster a process of developing innovation in businesses through the organisation of networks (clusters) and cooperation projects (€26M ERDF)**
- Measure 2-2: **Develop the information society: new services and new uses benefiting the economy and society (€21.5M ERDF).**
- Measure 2-3: **Develop shared infrastructure for high-speed electronic communication to support territorial attractiveness and regional economic competitiveness (€10M ERDF)**

Tasks and responsibilities concerning management of the Global Grant

Overall coordination of information and support mechanisms to develop projects;

Reception of bids and compliance assessment, the role of the Regional Council being a one-stop-shop for all subject areas as stated in the agreement;

Appraisal of bids: if the Regional Council does not have the necessary in-house technical capacities for certain applications, it will request the technical opinion from competent services of the State and partner members of the steering committee;

Project programming through a specific partnership programming committee presided over by the President of the Regional Council;

Notification by the President of the Regional Council of decisions awarding ERDF grant support;

Management and controls: monitoring activities, collecting data linked to indicators, checking services rendered (first level controls), payment of grants, quality controls for management;

Compliance with European funding publicity obligations, production of implementation reports;

Constant comprehensive data input to PRESAGE.

ESF Global Grant

Partial delegation by the Managing Authority in the form of an overall allocation of € 49,500,000 ESF corresponding to € 48,425,000 for Priority 2 of the ESF Operational Programme for youth and adult training, jobseekers as well as € 1,075,000 for Priority 5 (funding for technical assistance).

The agreement designating the Regional Council as intermediate body was signed on the 5 December 2008.

The description of the management system was approved by the CICC (Commission Interministérielle de Coordination des Contrôles) on the 10 July 2009.

Co-funded actions in the PACA Region

ESF funding made available specifically via public procurement for professional training delivered by the Directorate for Training and Apprenticeships: **qualification and pre-qualification activities.**

Identifying a target group: **youth and adult jobseekers.**

Specific controls carried out by the intermediate body

First level controls, or controls of services rendered:

The term “control” refers to checks made by the first level controller according to Article 16 of Regulation (EC) 1080/2006 (ERDF Regulation).

The task incumbent upon the first level controllers is to validate expenditure declared by each of the beneficiaries taking part in a project activity.

“**First level control**” therefore means checks of project expenditure to be undertaken during delivery of the project activity. More precisely, this entails:

Checking the relevance of actions delivered;

Checking what has been delivered compared with the project application in terms of expenditure, resources and eligibility of expenditure;

Ensuring compliance with European policies;

Checking the real nature of project-holder expenditure by a list of payment documents used for the period (type of document and date of payment) as part of the financial report;

Ensuring physical delivery through the elements referred to in the application (reports, studies, etc.);

Checking compliance with terms and conditions concerning EU funding publicity obligations (photos, communication tools, newspaper articles, etc.);

Ensuring the accuracy of requests for payment presented and determining the amount of grant to be paid compared with provisions made in the subsidy contract (maximum rate and amount of the grant) and in relation to the total amount of verified and validated expenditure (services rendered);

Proceed with payment,

Ensure follow-up action to these checks in case of irregularities;

Carry out on-the-spot visits.

Recover sums unduly paid out where appropriate. Alerts to OLAF (Anti-Fraud Office) are made through the Managing Authority for an amount of ERDF, or ESF equal to or above € 10,000.

All these tasks are recorded in PRESAGE. The controller checks the entire application and requests any eventual missing items.

The beneficiary must comply with any request made by the controller for additional items.

First Level Control covers 100% of all declared project expenditure.

Quality Management Control (QMC):

This defined as an *audit on the quality of the administrative and financial management process* for European Structural Funds.

QMC consists of checking the effectiveness, conformity and efficiency in the implementation of procedures defined by different stakeholders involved in the management process. It does not target the correction of expenditure, quality controls for certification, controls of project operations and does not lead to direct financial corrections.

These characteristics place QMC in an initiative to improve management processes with an added educational dimension.

Intermediate body controls by authorised authorities

Certification of expenditure controls:

The intermediate body sends all certificates of services rendered to the Certifying Authority and the Managing Authority.

Certain projects may be subject to a certification control.

“2nd level” controls of operations:

These are undertaken by a service designated for this purpose which is attached to the Managing Authority. Sampling is carried out by the CICC (Commission Interministérielle de Coordination des Contrôles), the **Audit Authority for France**

Other controls:

The intermediate body undertakes to submit to checks made by the Managing Authority (or its representative), national control bodies and Community authorities.

For the period 2007-2013, PACA Regional Council was regularly audited as part of the ESF and ERDF OP's:

- The CICC: management systems compliance (2009, 2011 and 2012);**
- The European Court of Auditors (2011): management systems compliance + checks on State Aid, public procurement and revenue-generating projects (under Article 55 of Regulation (EC) No1083/2006).**
- DG REGIO (2013): audit and control systems compliance (on-the-spot visit, quality controls on management and certificates of services rendered)**

CONTACT

Conseil Régional Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur

**Direction des Affaires Européennes
27 Place Jules Guesde – 13 481
Marseille cedex 20
Telephone: 04.91.57.54.07 or
04.91.54.54.29**