



Financial aspects - State Aid

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State-Aid

Assistance granted by a Member State (MS) or through State resources in any form that distorts competition.

The five cumulative criteria of State Aid

1. The recipient of the aid is an “undertaking”, which is carrying out an economic activity in the context of the project;
2. The measure must confer a benefit or economic advantage on the recipient which it would not otherwise have received;
3. It must be granted by a MS or through State resources (**always** the case of Interreg projects);
4. It must selectively favour certain undertakings or production of certain goods;
5. It must distort or threaten to distort competition and trade between the MS

State-Aid

Conditions

- ✓ Overview of conditions: Undertaking must meet five criteria for State Aid;
- ✓ Prohibited Activities: Export-related and aid contingent upon the use of domestic goods;
- ✓ National/Regional Consultation: Partners should consult relevant authorities for specific rules and limitations.

State-Aid assessment

- ✓ Online Approved Form includes "State Aid self-check";
- ✓ Scenarios: No risk, risk removable before submission, risk not removable before submission;
- ✓ Indirect State Aid: Thresholds set for aid granted to third parties outside the project partnership.

Information and reporting of State Aid

Direct Aid under GBER

- ✓ GBER allows public support measures without EC notification for Interreg projects;
- ✓ ERDF budget granted up to €2 million per partner and project;
- ✓ Partners must provide 20% private contributions into the total budget;
- ✓ No additional public co-financing for partners under GBER.

Information and reporting of State Aid

Direct Aid under De Minimis

- ✓ Exceptional measure for partners receiving additional public co-financing;
- ✓ ERDF granted under de minimis regime, subject to a threshold of €300,000 in three fiscal years;
- ✓ Threshold reduced to €100,000 in the road transport sector.

Information and reporting of State Aid

Follow-up

- ✓ Pre-Contract: State Aid analysis based on self-check. Adjustments may be requested during the pre-contracting phase;
- ✓ During Project Implementation: Lead Partner ensures compliance, Controllers verify, and additional conditions may be imposed for modifications;
- ✓ Reporting: Any State Aid-relevant activities must be communicated to the JS.

Information and reporting of State Aid

Conclusion

- ✓ Importance of complying with State Aid rules to avoid financial errors and irregularities;
- ✓ Partners must stay vigilant throughout the project lifetime to prevent State Aid violations.

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