HORIZON 2020

Grant Management under COVID-19
Horizon 2020 Grant Management under COVID-19: General principle

Maximum flexibility possible under H2020 MGA rules
**Force Majeure clause – use due to Covid-19**

**Force majeure’ relates to an extraordinary and unforeseeable event or situation that is beyond the beneficiaries control and that prevents them from fulfilling their obligations under the action (Article 51 H2020 MGA).**

- Are costs incurred eligible? (case-by-case assessment)
  - Yes, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions of Article 6 MGA like any other cost incurred under the action AND Beneficiaries must immediately take all the necessary steps to limit any damage due to force majeure

- **Benefits must immediately inform the Commission/Agency/Funding Body**
Eligibility of actual costs – flexibility due to COVID-19 impact

**Personnel costs**
- Teleworking costs eligible even if not the usual practices of the beneficiary
- If teleworking not possible, the mandatory confinement period set out by national or regional authorities qualifies as special absence

**Travel costs**
- Eligible even if temporarily not in line with usual travel costs practices if needed for exceptional individual situations (e.g. to immediately book return flight tickets for its staff working abroad on the action)

**Equipment costs**
- For equipment exclusively used for the action - full corresponding depreciation costs even if the equipment is not being actually used by researchers are eligible
- New equipment – costs eligible from the day on which its depreciation starts
Who

- Beneficiaries applying option 2 – individual annual productive hours
- What about beneficiaries applying Option 1 or 3
  - They may change to Option 2 in this year and
  - They may only choose do so for the types of personnel subject to confinement that cannot telework and keep Option (1 or 3) for the rest of the staff (e.g. employees who could telework)

How:

- Remove the absence due to the period of confinement from the calculation of the annual productive hours

Beneficiaries using monthly hourly rates can benefit from the measure ONLY if they change to annual hourly rates for financial year 2020 (i.e. for all personnel working in 2020 in all their ongoing GAs)
Eligible personnel costs

- **Include:**
  - General and specific eligibility conditions set out under Article 6(2) of the Model grant agreement, including that they must be actual (e.g. salaries, social security contributions etc.)

- **Do not include:**
  - Any amount (partly or totally) reimbursed from other sources (e.g. short-time work scheme, social security or public schemes).

\[
\text{Annual hourly rate} = \frac{\text{Annual Personnel costs}}{\text{Annual Productive hours}}
\]
Who and when?

- Beneficiaries encountering difficulties in obtaining the monthly signature of their timesheet or if electronic signature is not possible

How:

- Two options are possible:
  - The signature of the timesheets can be delayed until the confinement is lifted, or
  - An electronic version of the timesheet (scan or photo) can be sent by e-mail to the supervisor who approves it by replying by e-mail to the person.

Beneficiaries must keep the original timesheet with the signature of the person plus the acceptance e-mail of the supervisor.
**Impact of COVID-19 on action duration and start date of the action**

**Duration:** Can be extended:

- Requests up to 6 months handled favourably and in a speedy manner.
- Request beyond the 6 month based on case-by-case assessment.

**Start Date:** Can be postponed

- For GAs about to be signed: indicate new date in GAP
- For GAs already signed: via an amendment
  - Only if start date in the future (no work has started yet)
  - **How:** Set a fixed date later in the future

Disclaimer: Information not legally binding
What about delays due to impact of COVID-19?

Delays in action implementation

- full flexibility on scheduled due dates for deliverables, milestones and reports whose performance was impacted by the confinement measures.

Delays in submitting the reports

- Flexibility on the 60 days period for the submission of the periodic and final reports

  **For interim payments:** possibility to submit a shorter narrative part of the scientific report focusing on key explanation of work performed (e.g. key achievements; explanations on difficulties to perform tasks due to this situation, etc.)

  **For final payments:**

  - possibility to request an amendment to introduce an additional interim period (to be able to receive up to 90% of the grant amount)

  - possibility to make the payment of the balance even if no CFS (amount capped at EUR 324,999)
### What about amendments to manage impact of COVID-19?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What?</th>
<th>Amendment needed?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shift</strong> of action tasks from tasks where physical presence is needed on the ground (e.g. experiments/lab work, etc.) to remote work (desk work, drafting of reports, etc.) during confinement period</td>
<td><strong>NO</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Change</strong> in annual productive hours for calculating personnel costs from Options 1 or 3 to Option 2</td>
<td><strong>NO</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Request</strong> to introduce an additional interim period</td>
<td><strong>YES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Extension</strong> of action duration</td>
<td><strong>YES</strong></td>
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<td>(assessment on a case-by-case basis for requests longer than 6 months)</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Reorientation of the action to contribute to tackling the COVID-19 crisis</td>
<td><strong>YES, upon request</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>(assessment on a case-by-case basis).</td>
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Funding & tender opportunities Portal
At: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home

**H2020 COVID – 19 FAQs**
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/faq:type=1;categories=;programme=H2020;actions=;keyword=COVID-19%20outbreak

**Horizon 2020 Annotated Grant Agreement**

**Horizon 2020 On-line Manual**
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/guide.html#

**Questions? Research Enquiry Service**
http://ec.europa.eu/research/enquiries
Thank you for your attention!

Find out more: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/