



**8TH MEETING OF
THE H2020 NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS FOR LEGAL AND FINANCIAL MATTERS
21-22 MARCH 2017**

Centre Albert Borschette, Brussels

FLASH REPORT

1. AMENDMENT OF THE MODEL GRANT AGREEMENTS AND UPDATE OF THE ANNOTATED MODEL GRANT AGREEMENT

The Commission made a short presentation on the main changes in MGAs (version v4.0) adopted on 27 February.

The Commission answered NCPs' questions on the draft AGA update concerning the five main changes in the MGA v 4.0 (1. Additional remuneration; 2. Personnel costs for natural persons working under a direct contract with the beneficiary; 3. Direct costs internally invoiced; 4. Indirect costs; 5. New category of third parties not receiving EU funding).

The discussions reflected a general agreement on the content of the draft update. The Commission took on board some suggestions from NCPs, notably:

- for additional remuneration: to modify some examples;
- for direct contracts with a natural person: to add clarifications on similarity with employees' working conditions.

2. LUMP SUM PROJECT FUNDING

Anna Panagopoulou explained the objectives of pilot projects with lump sum funding, to explore a way of moving to implementation with a focus on activities rather than costs. The first results of the pilots will be taken into consideration for FP9.

The Commission presented two options for the pilots: a) a lump sum per project pre-defined in the call, or b) a lump sum fixed individually per project on the basis of cost estimation in the proposal. The NCPs raised questions mainly on the importance of the change, liability within the consortium, the role of evaluators, amendments and the importance of the choice of the calls for the pilot projects. Many NCPs indicated the need to consult further in their country in order to provide feedback. Anna Panagopoulou suggested to organise a dedicated meeting with NCPs before the summer break for in depth discussions.

3. AUDITS IN H2020

The Commission presented the selection of external auditors, the audit process in H2020 and responded to NCPs' questions on audit. It was suggested to plan for the next NCP meeting a session on the methodology to calculate unit cost and certificates on average personnel costs.

4. REVISED MODEL EXPERT CONTRACT

The Commission presented the revised model expert contract adopted on 7 March 2017, which will enter into force on 1 April 2017.

5. UNIT COSTS

The Commission presented the use of the unit cost on clinical studies and the use of the unit cost for energy efficiency measures in buildings.

6. NCP ACADEMY

A NCP for Belgium provided information on the NCP Academy mentoring programme for Legal & Financial NCPs. The NCPs for Greece and Spain explained that the NCP Academics is setting up a database of legal and financial Q&A for the use of NCPs. The Commission welcomed these initiatives and will consider if it can contribute to the database.

7. LEGAL AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

The Commission replied to various questions from NCPs. In relation with a question on cases where a coordinator includes in a proposal an entity without its knowledge, NCPs called for a strong message from the Commission that such practice is not accepted.
