

AGENCY FOR AUDIT, ACCOUNTING AND SERVICES

„EURO-BIRO“ d.o.o. S A R A J E V O

**Report for an Expenditure Verification of a Grant Contract International
Labour organisation**

„Local Employment Partnership (LEP)“

For period June 15TH 2017-December 15TH 2018

Contract BIH/15/01/EUR No.40189501,

Implemented by Udruženje Nešto više, implementing agent

Sarajevo, December 2018

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Report of Factual Findings

Mr Aleksandar Bundalo

Director

Trg sabora bosanskog 36 SARAJEVO

Dear Mr Bundalo,

In accordance with the terms of reference dated **12th November 2018** that you agreed with us, we provide our Report of Factual Findings (“the Report”), with respect to the accompanying Final Financial Report for the period covering 15th June 2017– 15th December 2018. (Annex 1 of this Report). You requested certain procedures to be carried out in connection with your Financial Report and the financed Grant Contract International Labour organisation concerning **„ Local employment Partnership (LEP)“ BIH/15//01/EUR NO:40189501**

Objective

To provide expenditure verification which is an engagement to perform certain agreed-upon procedures with regard to the Financial Report for the Grant Contract between you and *the International Labour organisation*, the ‘Contracting Authority’. The objective of this expenditure verification is for us to carry out certain procedures to which we have agreed and to submit to you a report of factual findings with regard to the procedures performed.

Objective

Our engagement was an expenditure verification, which is an engagement to perform certain agreed-upon procedures with regard to the Financial Report for the Grant Contract between you and the International Labour organisation the ‘Contracting Authority’. The objective of this expenditure verification is for us to carry out certain procedures to which we have agreed and to submit to you a report of factual findings with regard to the procedures performed.

Standards and Ethics

Our engagement was undertaken in accordance with:

International Standard on Related Services (‘ISRS’) 4400 *Engagements to perform Agreed-upon Procedures regarding Financial Information* as promulgated by the International Federation of Accountants (‘IFAC’);

The *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* issued by the IFAC. Although ISRS 4400 provides that independence is not a requirement for agreed-upon procedures engagements, the Contracting Authority requires that the auditor also complies with the independence requirements of the *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*;

Procedures performed

As requested, we have only performed the procedures listed in Annex 2A of the terms of reference for this engagement (see Annex 2 of this Report).

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These procedures have been determined solely by the Contracting Authority and the procedures were performed solely to assist the Contracting Authority in evaluating whether the expenditure claimed by you in the accompanying Financial Report is eligible in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Grant Contract.

Because the procedures performed by us did not constitute either an audit or a review made in accordance with International Standards on Auditing or International Standards on Review Engagements, we do not express any assurance on the accompanying Financial Report.

Had we performed additional procedures or had we performed an audit or review of the financial statements of the Beneficiary in accordance with International Standards on Auditing, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

Sources of Information

The Report sets out information provided to us by you in response to specific questions or as obtained and extracted from your accounts and records.

Factual Findings

The total expenditure which is the subject of this expenditure verification amounts to **220.351,88 EUR** . The overall Expenditure Coverage Ratio is 99,21%..

The Expenditure Coverage Ratio is **99,21%**. This ratio represents the total amount of expenditure verified by us, expressed as a percentage of the total expenditure which is the subject of this expenditure verification. The latter amount is equal to the total amount of expenditure reported by you in the Financial Report and claimed by you for deduction from the total sum of pre-financing under the Grant Contract as per your Payment Request of 50 % 27TH June 2017 (99.856,50€) + 40% 18th April 2018 (79.885,20€).

We report the details of our factual findings which result from the procedures that we performed in Chapter 2 of this Report.

Use of this Report

This Report is solely for the purpose set forth above under objective.

This report is prepared solely for your own confidential use and solely for the purpose of submission by you to the Contracting Authority in connection with the requirements as set out in Article 15 of the General Conditions of the Grant Contract. This report may not be relied upon by you for any other purpose, nor may it be distributed to any other parties.

The Contracting Authority is not a party to the agreement (the terms of reference) between you and us and therefore we do not owe or assume a duty of care to the Contracting Authority, who may rely upon this expenditure verification report at its own risk and discretion. The Contracting Authority can assess for itself the procedures and findings reported by us and draw its own conclusions from the factual findings reported by us.

The Contracting Authority may only disclose this Report to others who have regulatory rights of access to it.

This Report relates only to the Financial Report specified above and does not extend to any of your financial statements.

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We look forward to discussing our Report with you and would be pleased to provide any further information or assistance which may be required.

Yours sincerely,

Auditor's signature

Name of Auditor signing

Alen Hadžić

Auditor's address

Euro-Biro doo, Sarajevo
Hifzi Bjelevca br. 86
Tel/Fax: 033 765 120,
mob. 061-157-836

License no: 3090030184

Date of signature

Sarajevo, 14 December 2018



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1. Information about the grant contract

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project title: **„Local employment Partnership (LEP)“ + „Partnership for new jobs“**

Grant Contract: International Labour organisation **Contract BIH/15/01/EUR No.40189501** from 15.06.2017.

Total Budget: 222.113,00 EUR

Total Grant ILO: 199.713,00 EUR (89,92%)

Co-financing funds Nešto više: 3.500,00 EUR (1,58%)

Co-financing funds Općina Teslić: 18.900,00 EUR (8,50%)

Coordinator: Udruženje „**Nešto više**“ Sarajevo

Note: The project beneficiaries, awarded the coordinator with the power of attorney for the purpose of signing the collective agreement with coordinator when the provision is applied without any difference between coordinator and the user.

Project goal: Decreasing unemployment in Municipality of Teslić for 1% equal to 38 persons with actions of adding needed qualifications for companies, increasing competitive skills and empowering high schools Nikola Tesla and NGO INTERFOB for giving relevant service in terms of providing added skills and qualifications to unemployed persons.

Support type: Grant allocation due to analyses and presentation of the relevant legislation at state and entity level

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Implementation period: Project implementation, in accordance with Grant Contract

No CTR: BIH/15/01/EUR No. 40189501 in the period from June 15TH 2017 until December 15th 2018.

2. Procedures performed and factual findings

We have performed the following specific procedures listed in Annex 2A of the terms of reference for the expenditure verification of the Grant Contract ('TOR'):

1. General procedures
2. Procedures to verify conformity of expenditure with the budget and analytical review
3. Procedures to verify selected expenditure

We have applied the rules for selection of expenditure and the principles and criteria for verification coverage as set out in Annex 2B (sections 3 and 4) of the TOR for this expenditure verification.

In general Auditor applies the principles and criteria when planning and performing the specific verification procedures and the size of the sample of expenditures to be verified by auditor. The size and the population of sample depends on risk assessment and Beneficiary's experience in implementation of projects funded by Contracting Authority.

We have applied the rules for selection of expenditure and the principles and criteria for verification coverage as set out in Annex 2B of the TOR for this expenditure verification.

Performing pre - audit actions and procedures for external - independent audit of the project phases, insight into accounting records, documentation, rulebooks, decisions, public procurement and documentation confirming that the costs are in accordance with the projected budget line. During project verification, we did not pursue the International Auditing Standards for Audit of Financial Statements exclusively, but focused our activities on the procedures necessary for the specific case.

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our findings.

Auditor's Factual Findings

The total costs, subject of this verification according to the planned project budget, are KM 434,415.27 KM and EUR 222,113.00 respectively.

Project implementation was done on 15.12.2018 with the amount of 220.351,90 EUR (KM 430.970,86) and 99,21 % respectively.

This amount represents the total amount of costs we have checked using other alternative methods to check their objectivity and justification.

EU financing according to the budget:

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| | 1. Budget of the Project¹ | All years | | | |
|-----------|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| | Costs | Units¹³ | Quantity of units | Unit value | Total costs |
| | | | | (EUR) | (EUR)³ |
| 1. | Human Resources | | | | |
| 1.1. | <i>Salaries (gross salaries including health insurance taxes, unemployment and other taxes connected with employed personnel)⁴</i> | | | | |
| 1.1.1. | Technical resources | | | | |
| 1.1.1.1. | Project manager | per month | 18 | 1.800,00 | 32.400,00 |
| 1.1.1.2. | Project coordinator | per month | 9 | 1.050,00 | 9.450,00 |
| 1.1.1.3. | Project coordinator | per month | 9 | 1.050,00 | 9.450,00 |
| 1.1.1.4. | Project coordinator - education | per day | 180 | 62,00 | 11.160,00 |
| 1.1.1.5. | Person in charge for promotion | per day | 72 | 62,00 | 4.464,00 |
| 1.1.2. | Administration personnel | | | | |
| 1.1.2.1. | Financial manager | per month | 9 | 1.000,00 | 9.000,00 |
| 1.2. | <i>Salaries (gross salaries including health insurance taxes and other taxes for international personnel)</i> | | | | |
| 1.3. | <i>Unique daily costs for traveling⁵</i> | | | | |
| 1.3.1. | Abroad personnel | per day | | | |

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| | | | | | |
|-----------|--|-------------|----|---------|------------------|
| | dedicated to Project | | | | |
| 1.3.2. | Domestic personnel dedicated to Project | per day | 5 | 60,00 | 300,00 |
| 1.3.3. | Attendant of seminar | per day | | | |
| | Subtotal human resources | | | | 76.224,00 |
| 2. | Travel | | | | |
| 2.1. | International travel | per flight | | | |
| 2.2. | Local transportation | per month | 18 | 220,00 | 3960,00 |
| | Subtotal travel costs | | | | 3.960,00 |
| 3. | Equipment and supplies | | | | |
| 3.1. | Purchase or rent of vehicles | vehicle | | | |
| 3.2. | Furniture, computer equipment | | | | |
| 3.3. | Spare parts/equipment for machines, tools | cnc machine | 1 | 4000,00 | 4000,00 |
| 3.4. | Other | | | | |
| 4. | Local office/Action costs | | | | |
| 4.1. | Vehicle costs | year | | | |
| 4.2. | Office rent | per month | | | |
| 4.3. | Consumables - office supplies | per month | | | |
| 4.4. | Other services (tel/fax, electricity/heating, maintenance) | per month | | | |
| | Subtotal Local office costs | | | | 4000,00 |

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| | | | | | |
|-----------|--|------------------|----|---------|----------|
| 5. | Incidental costs, services | | | | |
| 5.1. | Publications | | | | |
| 5.2. | Studies, research | | | | |
| 5.3. | Auditing costs | Project | 1 | 3000,00 | 3000,00 |
| 5.4. | Evaluation costs | | | | |
| 5.5. | Translation, interpreters | Page | | | |
| 5.6. | Financial services (bank guarantee costs etc.) | | | | |
| 5.7. | Costs of conferences/seminars | | | | |
| 5.8. | Visibility actions | Project | 1 | 1000,00 | 1000,00 |
| | Subtotal Incidental costs services | | | | 4000 |
| 6. | Other direct costs | | | | |
| 6.1. | Training course for beneficiaries | person | 80 | 565,00 | 45200,00 |
| 6.2. | Anagogical training | training | 1 | 700,00 | 700,00 |
| 6.3. | Site visits to other LEPs | visit | 2 | 400,00 | 800,00 |
| 6.4. | Training of trainers | training | 2 | 1200,00 | 2400,00 |
| 6.5. | Training for LEP | training | 2 | 800,00 | 1600,00 |
| 6.6. | Employment incentives | persons | 38 | 1815,79 | 69000,02 |
| 6.7. | Drafting curriculum for the occupation of LED display assembly mechatronics technician | educational plan | 1 | 750,00 | 750,00 |
| 6.8. | Training programme certification | commission | 2 | 350,00 | 700,00 |
| 6.9. | Examination panel | exam | 8 | 150,00 | 1200,00 |

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| | | | | | |
|-----|--|--|-----|----------|-------------------|
| | Subtotal other direct costs | | | | 122350,02 |
| 7. | Subtotal direct costs of the Action (1-6) | | | | 210.534,02 |
| 8. | Administrative costs (maximum 7% of 7, total direct eligible costs of the Action) | | 5,5 | 2.105,34 | 11.579,37 |
| 9. | Total eligible costs of the Action (7+8) | | | | 222.113,39 |
| 10. | Reserved costs | | | | |
| 11. | Total costs (9+10) | | | | |

- Total Grant ILO EUR 199.713,00
- Initial pre-financing EUR 99.856,50
- Payment after 70% spent grant EUR 79.885,20
- Payment request corresponding to this report EUR 19.971,30

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We have verified the selected expenditure as shown in the above summary table and we have carried out, for each expenditure item selected, the verification procedures specified at point 3.1 to 3.7 of Annex 2A of the TOR for this expenditure verification. We report our factual findings resulting from these procedures below.

1. General Procedures

1.1 Terms and Conditions of the Grant Contract

We obtained a sufficient understanding of the terms and conditions of the multi –beneficiary Grant Contract by reviewing the Grant Contract, its annexes and other relevant information, and by inquiry of the Beneficiaries.

We have considered the accounting policies and the methodology of recording and classification of all transactions according to the project assignments.

Final financial report has been presented to us.

We had complete documentation at our disposal: calculation of the fees for human resources engagement, invoices for necessary expenses, corresponding bank reports on payments, calculation of travel expenses, other contracts and accounts, tender documentation, supplier invoices and report on the completed project task - as well as the Agreements between the Coordinator and all the associates involved.

Special attention was paid to the Grant Contract No CTR: BIH/15/01/EUR No. 40189501 foreseeing grant awarding contains actions and procurement regulations for grant beneficiaries in line with signed procedures.

Our engagement included investigation related to the possible beneficiaries' conflict of interest.

By verification whether the Final Financial Report of the Coordinator meets the general terms of the Grant Contract No CTR: BIH/15/01/EUR No. 40189501 we have noted the following:

- Final financial report is aligned with Grant Contract No CTR: BIH/15/01/EUR No. 40189501
- Final Financial Report covers entire Action regardless of which part of the ILO is funded by Udruženje Nešto više, Sarajevo,

The Coordinator was responsible for the overall project implementation and for the presentation of financial indicators that should present the integral implementation of the Project.

Project beneficiaries, Coordinator and Co-Beneficiaries have conferred powers of attorney for the purpose of the signature of the agreement to the Coordinator collective referred to “as Beneficiaries” where a provision applies without distinction to the Coordinator and Co-beneficiaries.

We obtained and reviewed Final Financial Report Narrative report and Evaluation report.

We paid attention to Annex I of the Grant Contract, which contains the Description of the Action, Annex II and Annex IV, which provides rules for procurement by grant beneficiaries in the context of EC external actions. We ensured with the beneficiaries that the applicable nationality and origin rules are identified and understood.

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Anex 1

1.2 Financial Report for the Grant Contract

We verified that the the Final Financial Report of the Beneficiary's complies with the following conditions of Article 2 of the General Conditions the Grant as follows:

- Financial Report is conformed to the model in Annex VI of the Grant Contract;
- Financial Report covers the Action as whole, regardless of which part of it is financed by the Contracting Authority;
- Financial Report is drawn in the language of the Grant contract.
- The proof of the transfers of ownership of equipment, vehicles and supplies (Article 7.5 of the General Conditions of the Grant Contract) is not annexed to the final Financial Report because there was no procurement above 5000 EUR.
- Coordinator was in charge for overall implementation of the Action and for presentation of Financial and Narative reports which should present integral implementation of the Action.

1.3 Rules for Accounting and Record Keeping

- We have examined whether the Coordinator and Co-Beneficiaries have complied with the rules for accounting and record keeping of Article 16 of the General Conditions the Grant Contract:
- The accounts kept by the Coordinator for the implementation of the action are accurate and up-to date;
- The Coordinator has a double-entry book-keeping system;
- The accounts enable income and expenditure relating to the Action to be easily traced, identified and verified.
- The accounts provide details of interest accrued on funds paid by the contracting authority
- The Coordinator ensured that the financial report as required under Article 2. can be properly and easily reconciled to the accounting and bookkeeping system and to the underlying accounting and other relevant records.

1.4 Reconciling the Financial Report to the Beneficiary's Accounting System and Records

We verify that expenditure for a transaction has been accurately and properly recorded in the Coordinaotr and Co-Beneficiary's accounting system and the Financial Report and that it is supported by appropriate evidence and supporting documents.

1.5 Exchange Rates

We verify that amounts as disclosed in the financial report are given in BAM and €. The exchange rate between € and BAM is fixed and therefore there was no exchange rate differences when converting expenditures from BAM to €.

1.6 Simplified Cost Options

We verify with **Annex III of the Grant Contract** i.e. **Budget for the Action** whether the Beneficiary(ies) have applied for the application of simplified costs i.e. for the application of any or a combination of unit costs, lump sums and flat-rate financing. Eligible costs for the Action may be

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based on any or a combination of actual costs incurred, unit costs, lump sums and flat-rate financing. Simplified cost options can apply to one or more of the direct cost headings of the Budget for the Action and Financial Report (i.e. cost headings 1 to 6), or to sub-cost headings or to specific cost items within these cost headings.

- The Auditor obtains an understanding of the conditions set out in:
 - **Article 2.1.c) of the General Conditions.** This Article stipulates that in case of simplified cost options the Report for the Action (narrative and financial) shall provide the qualitative and quantitative information needed to demonstrate the fulfilment of the conditions for reimbursement established in the Special Conditions;
 - **Articles 14.3 to 14.5** of the General Conditions; provisions for simplified cost options.

If simplified cost options apply, the Auditor performs the specific procedures set out at 3.1.(2) below.

2. Procedures to verify conformity of Expenditure with the Budget and Analytical Review

2.1 Budget of the Grant Contract

We carried out an analytical review of the expenditure headings in the Interim Financial Report which comprised all incurred expenditures over the implementing period, as presented in the table below:

| 1. Budget of the Project¹ | | | | | |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------|----------|-------------|
| | Costs | Approved budget (EUR)³ | Real expenditure (EUR) | % | Note |
| 1. | Human Resources | | | | |
| 1.1. | <i>Salaries (gross salaries including health insurance taxes, unemployment and other taxes connected with employed personnel)⁴</i> | | | | |
| 1.1.1. | Technical resources | | | | |
| 1.1.1.1. | Project manager | 32.400,00 | 32.400,09 | 100 | 0,00 |
| 1.1.1.2. | Field coordinator | 9.450,00 | 11.185,23 | 118,36 | -1.735,23 |
| 1.1.1.3. | Field coordinator | 9.450,00 | 10.433,51 | 110,41 | -983,51 |
| 1.1.1.4. | Project coordinator - education | 11.160,00 | 10.406,33 | 93,25 | 567,03 |
| 1.1.1.5. | Person incharge for promotion | 4.464,00 | 4464,22 | 100,00 | -0,22 |

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| | | | | | |
|----------|--|------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1.1.2. | Administration personnel | | | 0,00 | 0,00 |
| 1.1.2.1. | Financial manager | 9.000,00 | 9003,22 | 100,04 | -3,22 |
| 1.2. | <i>Sallaries (gross sallaries including health unsurance taxesnand other taxes for international personel)</i> | | | 0,00 | 0,00 |
| 1.3. | <i>Unique daily costs for traveling⁵</i> | | | 0,00 | 0,00 |
| 1.3.1. | Abroad personel dedicated to Project | | | 0,00 | 0,00 |
| 1.3.2. | Domestic personel dedicated to Project | 300,00 | 197,87 | 65,96 | 102,13 |
| 1.3.3. | Seminar/conference participants | | | 0,00 | 0,00 |
| | Subtotal human resources | 76.224,00 | 78.090,48 | 102,45 | -1.866,48 |
| 2. | Travel | | | | |
| 2.1. | International travel | | | | |
| 2.2. | Local transportation | 3.960,00 | 4.264,37 | 107,69 | -304,37 |
| | Subtotal travel costs | 3.960,00 | 4.264,37 | 107,69 | -304,37 |
| 3. | Equipment and supplies | | | | |
| 3.1. | Purchase or rent of vehicles | | | | |
| 3.2. | Furniture, computer equipment | | | | |
| 3.3. | Spare parts/equipment for machines, tools | 4.000,00 | 3.988,08 | 99,70% | 11,92 |
| 3.4. | Other | | | | |
| | Subtotal equipment and supplies | 4.000,00 | 3.988,08 | 99,70% | 11,92 |
| 4. | Local office/Action costs | | | | |
| 4.1. | Vehicle costs | | | | |
| 4.2. | Office rent | | | | |
| 4.3. | Consumables - office suplies | | | | |
| 4.4. | Other services (tel/fax, electricity/heating, maintenance) | | | | |
| | Subtotal Local office costs | | | | |
| 5. | Incidental costs, services | | | | |
| 5.1. | Publications | | | | |
| 5.2. | Studies, research | | | | |
| 5.3. | Auditing costs | 3.000,00 | 2.045,17 | 68,17% | 954,83 |
| 5.4. | Evaluation costs | | | | |
| 5.5. | Translation, interpreters | | | | |
| 5.6. | Financial services (bank guarantee costs etc.) | | | | |
| 5.7. | Costs of conferences/seminars | | | | |
| 5.8. | Visibility actions | 1.000,00 | 948,50 | 94,85% | 51,50 |

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| | | | | | |
|------|--|-------------------|-------------------|--------|-------------------|
| | Subtotal Incidental costs | 4.000,00 | 2.993,67 | 74,84 | 1006,33 |
| 6. | Other direct costs | | | | |
| 6.1. | Training course for beneficiaries | 45.200,00 | 34.563,44 | 97,69 | 10.636,56 |
| 6.2. | Andragogical training | 700,00 | 664,608 | 94,944 | 35,39 |
| 6.3. | Site visits to other LEPs | 800,00 | 200,39 | 25,05 | 599,61 |
| 6.4. | Training of trainers | 2.400,00 | 1.196,42 | 49,85 | 1.203,58 |
| 6.5. | Training for LEP | 1.600,00 | 1.939,74 | 121,23 | -339,74 |
| 6.6. | Employment incentives | 69.000,00 | 79.761,53 | 115,60 | -10.761,54 |
| 6.7. | Drafting curriculum for the occupation of LED display assembly mechatronics technician | 750,00 | 383,47 | 51,13 | 366,53 |
| 6.8. | Training programme certification | 700,00 | 357,9 | 51,13 | 342,10 |
| 6.9. | Examination panel | 1.200,00 | 460,16 | 38,35 | 739,84 |
| | Subtotal other direct costs | 122.350,02 | 119.527,75 | 97,69 | 2.822,27 |
| 7. | Subtotal direct costs of the Action (1-6) | 210.534,02 | 208.864,34 | | |
| 8. | Administrative costs (maximum 7% of 7, total direct eligible costs of the Action) | 11.579,37 | 11.487,54 | | |
| 9. | Total eligible costs of the Action (7+8) | 222.113,39 | 220.351,88 | | |
| 10. | Reserved costs | | | | |
| 11. | Total costs (9+10) | | | | |

Differences are recorded under the budget line 1. **Human Resources** where the expenditure in the accounting records is reported in the amount of EUR 78.090,48 in percentages 102,45% and is higher than the planned budget of EUR 76.224,00 or 100%.

Management respond: Teslić Municipality increased contribution but budget line 6.1 has decreased. Notification 07.05.2018. approved by Amra Selesković.

Differences are recorded under budget line 2. **Travel** where the expenditure in the accounting records is expressed in the amount of EUR 4,264,37 in percentages 7,69% higher than the planned budget of EUR 3,960 or 100%.

Management respond: The difference was due to the fact that actual costs were higher than planned costs. They include training costs organized by the ILO and not planned in the budget at the beginning.

Differences are recorded under budget line 3 and marked as not significant. **Equipment and supplies** where the expenditure in the accounting records is expressed in the amount of EUR 3.988,08 in percentages of 99,70% and it is lower than the planned budget of EUR 4.000,00 or by 0,30%.

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Differences are recorded under budget line 5. **Incidental costs, services** where the expenditure in the accounting records is expressed in the amount of EUR 2.993,67 in percentages of 94,85% and is lower than the planned budget of EUR 3.000,00. Differences in this budget line are marked as not significant.

Difference in budget line 6 is marked as not significant in the amount of EUR 2.822,27 or 2,31%

Management respond:

We verified that the budget in the Financial Report corresponds with the budget of the Grant Contract (authenticity and authorisation of the initial budget or approved as modified by Addendum) and that the expenditure incurred was indicated in the budget of the Grant Contract.

We verify as follows:

- Disclosed Budget table presents amounts for the entire implementing period of the project.
- The budget in the Financial Report corresponds with the Modified Budget of the Grant Contract,
- The expenditures incurred were foreseen in the budget of the Grant Contract.

2.2 Amendments to the Budget of the Grant Contract

– We verify whether there been amendments to the budget of the Grant Contract. Original Budget as defined by the Grant Contract has been modified in accordance with the scope of Article 9.4 of the General Conditions.

We had a notification about changing the budget:

- 26.02.2018. approved by Džemal Hodžić where we are from 6.1. moved 10,750.00 € to 6.6.

- 07.05.2018. approved by Amra Seleskovic where we reduced 6.1. and increased 1.1.1.2. and 1.1.1.3. for 1.500,00 €

We have quantified the amount of the verification exceptions found and the potential impact on the EU contribution, should the Commission declare the expenditure item(s) concerned ineligible (where applicable taking into account the percentage of funding of the Commission and the impact on indirect expenditure (e.g. administrative costs, overheads)). We have reported all the exceptions found, including the ones for which we cannot quantify the amount or the potential impact on the EU contribution.

3.1 Eligibility of Costs

We have verified, for each expenditure item selected, the eligibility criteria set out at procedure 3.1 in Annex 2A of the ToR for this expenditure verification.

The Auditor verifies, for each expenditure item selected, the eligibility criteria set out below.

- We verify that the expenditure for a selected item incurred during the implementation period of the Action and whether they are supported by sufficient appropriate verification evidence as to whether the expenditure has incurred by and pertains to the Beneficiaries.

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- We verify proof of work done, goods received or services rendered on a timely basis, at acceptable and agreed quality and at reasonable prices or costs. We examined supporting documentation i.e invoices, contracts, bank statements, payroll slips etc.
- We verify that the reported expenditure was indicated in the Action budget.
- We examined the nature of the expenditure with supporting documents and we verify that expenditures are necessary for implementation of the Action and that it had to be incurred for the contracted activities of the Action and it had been necessary for the activities and objectives of the Action.
- We verify that expenditure for a selected item is recorded in the Beneficiary's accounting system and was recorded in accordance with the applicable accounting standards of Bosnia and Herzegovina, country where the Beneficiaries partner organization is established and the Coordinator's and Co-Beneficiaries's usual cost accounting practices.
- We verify that expenditures complies with the requirements of tax and social security legislation.
- We verify that expenditure for a selected item is substantiated by evidence and notably the supporting documents.
- We verify that the monetary value of a selected expenditure item agrees with underlying documents (e.g. invoices, salary statements) and that correct exchange rates are used where applicable.
- We examine the nature of the expenditure for a selected item and verify that the expenditure item has been classified under the correct (sub)heading of the Financial Report.
- We examined which procurement, nationality and origin rules apply for a certain expenditure heading, subheading, a class of expenditure items or an expenditure item. We verify that Coordinator's and Co-Beneficiaries's have complied with procurement procedures and that the expenditure concerned is eligible.

Human Resources

| | Costs | Approved budget | Real expenditure (EUR) | % | Note |
|----------|---|--------------------|------------------------|--------|-------------------|
| | | (EUR) ³ | | | |
| 1. | Human Resources | | | | |
| 1.1. | <i>Salaries (gross salaries including health insurance taxes, unemployment and other taxes connected with employed personnel)⁴</i> | | | | |
| 1.1.1. | Technical resources | | | | |
| 1.1.1.1. | Project manager | 32.400,00 | 32.400,09 | 100 | Adem Lisičić |
| 1.1.1.2. | Field coordinator | 9.450,00 | 11.185,23 | 118,36 | Dragan Mišić |
| 1.1.1.3. | Field coordinator | 9.450,00 | 10.433,51 | 110,41 | Samira Zelenbabić |
| 1.1.1.4. | Project coordinator - education | 11.160,00 | 10.406,33 | 93,25 | Interfob |

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| | | | | | |
|----------|--|------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 1.1.1.5. | Person incharge for promotion | 4.464,00 | 4464,22 | 100,00 | Sanja Đermanović |
| 1.1.2. | Administration personnel | | | 0,00 | |
| 1.1.2.1. | Financial manager | 9.000,00 | 9003,22 | 100,04 | Duško Cvjetinović |
| 1.2. | <i>Sallaries (gross sallaries including health unsurance taxesnand other taxes for international personel)</i> | | | 0,00 | |
| 1.3. | <i>Unique daily costs for traveling⁵</i> | | | 0,00 | |
| 1.3.1. | Abroad personel dedicated to Project | | | 0,00 | |
| 1.3.2. | Domestic personel dedicated to Project | 300,00 | 197,87 | 65,96 | Adem Lisičić |
| 1.3.3. | Seminare/conference participants | | | 0,00 | |
| | Subtotal human resources | 76.224,00 | 78.090,48 | 102,45 | |

The cost of staff assigned to the Action on the bases of employment contract (Project manager and Project assistants, Financial officier) corresponds to actual gross salaries including social security charges and other remuneration-related costs and do not exceed those normally born by the Coordinator.

Travel cost

| Budget line | Cost | Approved Budget in EUR | Actual Expenditure in EUR | % | Note |
|-------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|------|
| 2. | Travel | | | | |
| 2.1. | International travel | 3.960,00 | 4.264,37 | 107,69 | |
| 2.2 | Local transportation | | | | |
| | Subtotal Travel | 3.960,00 | 4.264,37 | 107,69 | |

Overall cost of official travel are higher than the budget foreseen for this segment. Amount of EUR 304,37 over cross approved budget for 7,69%. The management has confirmed that the costs are real and partly increased due to the departure of the ILO-run trainings that are not foreseen by the budget.

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Equipment and supplies

| | | | | | |
|------|---|---------|----------------|--------|-------|
| 3. | Equipment and supplies | | | | |
| 3.1. | Purchase or rent of vehicles | | | | |
| 3.2. | Furniture, computer equipment | | | | |
| 3.3. | Spare parts/equipment for machines, tools | 4000,00 | 3988,08 | 99,80% | 11,92 |
| 3.4. | Other | | | | |
| | Subtotal equipment and supplies | 4000,00 | 3988,08 | 99,80% | 11,92 |

The supply of equipment to perform the task was followed by the plan and program as well as dynamic according to the needs. The purchase was made from legal entities as follows:

- Limprom OR

document no.: 00057

Purchased equipment is recorded in the accounting to the account group 00 - permanent assets - equipment, and it is classified as permanent assets in accordance with MRS -16. The Management board is preparing list of equipment at the end of each accounting period, conducting the assessment of the quantitative status and subject to the amortization schedule in accordance with the applicable legislations applicable in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Management stated that the CNC machine was acquired for the training and retraining of adults within the Nikola Tesla School which develops and realizes adult education training and is a partner in the project and will also be used for the training of students and teachers

4. Local office

| | | | | | |
|------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 4. | Local office/Action costs | | | | |
| 4.1. | Vehicle costs | | | | |
| 4.2. | Office rent | | | | |
| 4.3. | Consumables - office supplies | | | | |
| 4.4. | Other services (tel/fax, electricity/heating, maintenance) | | | | |
| | Subtotal Local office costs | | | | |

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5. Other cost services

| | | | | | |
|-----------|--|-------------|----------------|--------|----------------|
| 5. | Incidental costs, services | | | | |
| 5.1. | Publications | | | | |
| 5.2. | Studies, research | | | | |
| 5.3. | Auditing costs | 3000,00 | 2045,17 | 68,17% | 954,83 |
| 5.4. | Evaluation costs | | | | |
| 5.5. | Translation, interpreters | | | | |
| 5.6. | Financial services (bank guarantee costs etc.) | | | | |
| 5.7. | Costs of conferences/seminars | | | | |
| 5.8. | Visibility actions | 1000,00 | 948,5 | 94,85% | 51,50 |
| | Subtotal Incidental costs | 4000 | 2993,67 | | 1006,33 |

Liabilities on this line of financing have been due to bill.

| Budget line | Supplier | Basis for payment | Amount in EUR |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 5.3. | Euro-biro d.o.o. | Ctr. 459 | 2.045,18 |

| Budget line | Supplier | Basis for payment | Amount in EUR |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 5.8. | Delta trade | Rn.207/2017 | 89.73 |
| | Elta Media group | Rn.302/17 | 153.39 |
| | Radio M | Rn. 14/18 | 230.08 |
| | Elta media group | Rn.15/18 | 102.26 |
| | Televizija K3 | Rn. 14/18 | 138.05 |
| | Televizija K3 | Rn. 78/17 | 107.37 |
| | Delta trade | Rn. 91/2018 | 127.62 |

Realization of the complete Project was, expressed in percentages 99,21% Using the percentage of project implementation on the budget lines, we find that the funds missing from the Project being funded by the European Union as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| - Planed budget | EUR 222.113,37 |
| - Spent budget | EUR 220.351,88 |
| - Paid by ILO | EUR 179.591,70 |
| - UG "NEŠTO VIŠE" | EUR 781,53 |

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- Municipality Teslić EUR 21.618,47

CONCLUSION

Coordinator of the Udruženje "Nešto više" Sarajevo is keeping complete documentation regarding project implementation, as well as supporting documentation and records.

We acknowledge that the revenues attributed to the Action including the grants were appropriately allocated to the action and properly entered in the accounting books.

The auditor has confirmed that all procurement, financed from the project's approved funds for the project "Local employment partnerships (LEP)", was not charged with value added tax (VAT) in accordance with Article 29 Paragraph 2 of the Law on value added tax and on the basis of the IPA II DEU Control Certificate; EU / 2016 / D / 5298171 from 14 September 2016.

3.2 Eligible Direct Costs (Article 14.2)

The Auditor verifies this type of expenditures is covered by the direct costs as defined in Article 14.2. of the General Conditions.

We verify that these costs:

are necessary for carrying out the action i.e. expenditure for a transaction has been incurred for the intended purpose of the action and it has been necessary for the activities and objectives of the action;

the direct costs are provided for in the Grant Contract Budget and comply with the principles of sound financial management, in particular value for money and cost effectiveness;

have actually been incurred by the Coordinator or Co-Beneficiaries during the implementation period of the Action as defined in Article 14.1. of the General Conditions;

are VAT, duties and other taxes excluded;

- are recorded in the accounts of the Coordinator's and Co-Beneficiaries and are identifiable, verifiable and substantiated by originals of supporting evidence.

3.3 Contingency Reserve (Article 14.6)

We verify that Contingency Reserve was not used and presented in the Final Financial report.

Auditor Notes : No factual findings have arisen from this procedure.

3.4 Indirect Costs (Article 14.7)

We verify that the administrative (indirect) costs do not exceed a maximum of 5,50 % of the total direct eligible costs of the action (Article 3.3 of the Special conditions and Article 14.4. of the General Conditions).

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3.5 In kind contributions Article 14.8)

We verify that costs in the Financial Report do not include contributions in kind.

3.6 Non-eligible costs (Article 14.9)

We verify that selected expenditure do not include non-eligible costs as described in article 14.9 of General conditions.

3.7 Revenues of the Action

We verify that revenues which are attributed to the Action (including inter alia grants and funding received from other donors and other revenue generated by the Coordinatro and Co-Beneficiaries in the context of the Action) have been appropriately allocated to the action and are correctly recorded in the accounting books.

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Annex 1 Financial Report for the Grant Contract

Annex 2 Terms of Reference Expenditure Verification

Annex 2 Terms of Reference for an Expenditure Verification of a Grant Contract

- external action of the european Union -

The following are the terms of reference ('ToR') under which **Udruženje „Nešto više“ Sarajevo** (The term "Coordinator" refers to the Beneficiary identified as the Coordinator in the Special Conditions) agrees to engage AGENCIJA ZA RAČUNOVODSTVO I REVIZIJU „EURO – BIRO „ D.O.O. S A R A J E V O ('the Auditor') to perform an expenditure verification and to report in connection with International Labour Organisation financed grant contract for an external action concerning „ **Local employment partnerships (LEP) „, BIH/15/01/EUR NO:40189501** (the 'Grant Contract'). Where in these ToR the 'Contracting Authority' is mentioned, this refers to the International Labour Organisation which has signed the Grant Contract with the Beneficiary and is providing the grant funding. The Contracting Authority is not a party to this agreement.

1.1. Responsibilities of the Parties to the Engagement

The term "**Beneficiary(ies)**" refers collectively to all Beneficiaries, including the Coordinator, of the Action. When there is only one Beneficiary of the Action, the terms Beneficiary(ies) and Coordinator should both be understood as referring to the only Beneficiary of the Action (see footnote 1). Where applicable the term 'Beneficiary(ies) includes its affiliated entity(ies).

- The Coordinator is responsible for providing a Financial Report for the action financed by the Grant Contract which complies with the terms and conditions of the Grant Contract and for ensuring that this Financial Report reconciles to the Beneficiary's accounting and bookkeeping system and to the underlying accounts and records. The Beneficiary is responsible for providing sufficient and adequate information, both financial and non-financial, in support of the Financial Report.
- The Coordinator accepts that the ability of the Auditor to perform the procedures required by this engagement effectively depends upon the Beneficiary(ies), and as the case may be its affiliated entity(ies), providing full and free access to its (their) staff and its (their) accounting and bookkeeping system and underlying accounts and records.
- 'The **Auditor**' is responsible for performing the agreed-upon procedures as specified in these ToR. 'Auditor' refers to the audit firm contracted for performing this engagement and for submitting a report of factual findings to the Beneficiary. 'Auditor' can refer to the person or persons conducting the verification, usually the engagement partner or other members of the engagement team. The engagement partner is the partner or other person in the audit firm who is responsible for the engagement and for the report that is issued on behalf of the firm, and who has the appropriate authority from a professional, legal or regulatory body.

By agreeing these ToR the Auditor confirms that he/she meets at least one of the following conditions:

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- The Auditor and/or the firm is a member of a national accounting or auditing body or institution which in turn is member of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC).
- The Auditor and/or the firm is a member of a national accounting or auditing body or institution. Although this organisation is not member of the IFAC, the Auditor commits him/herself to undertake this engagement in accordance with the IFAC standards and ethics set out in these ToR.
- The Auditor and/or the firm is registered as a statutory auditor in the public register of a public oversight body in an EU member state in accordance with the principles of public oversight set out in Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (this applies to auditors and audit firms based in an EU Member State¹).
- The Auditor and/or the firm is registered as a statutory auditor in the public register of a public oversight body in a third country and this register is subject to principles of public oversight as set out in the legislation of the country concerned (this applies to auditors and audit firms based in a third country).

1.2. Subject of the Engagement

The subject of this engagement is the expenditure verification Financial Report in connection with the Grant Contract for the period covering 15 June 2017 till 19 December 2018 and the action entitled „ **Local employment partnerships (LEP)** “ concerning the 'Action'. Annex 1 to these ToR contains information about the Grant Contract.

1.3. Reason for the Engagement

The Coordinator is required to submit to the Contracting Authority an expenditure verification report produced by an external auditor in support of the payment requested by the Coordinator under Article 15 of the General Conditions of the Grant Contract. The Authorising Officer of the Commission requires this report because the payment of expenditure requested by the Coordinator is conditional on the factual findings of this report.

1.4. Engagement Type and Objective

This expenditure verification is an engagement to perform certain agreed-upon procedures with regard to the Financial Report for the Grant Contract. The objective of this expenditure verification is for the Auditor to carry out the specific procedures listed in Annex 2A to these ToR and to submit to the Coordinator a report of factual findings with regard to the specific verification procedures performed. Verification means that the Auditor examines the factual information in the Financial Report of the Coordinator and compares it with the terms and conditions of the Grant Contract. As this engagement is not an assurance engagement the Auditor does not provide an audit opinion and expresses no assurance. The Contracting Authority assesses for itself the factual findings reported by

¹ Directive 2006/43 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 July 2006 on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated, amending Council Directives 78/660/EEC and 83/349/EEC and repealing Council Directive 84/253 EEC.

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the Auditor and draws its own conclusions from these factual findings.

1.5. Standards and Ethics

The Auditor shall undertake this engagement in accordance with:

- the International Standard on Related Services (‘ISRS’) 4400 Engagements to perform Agreed-upon Procedures regarding Financial Information as promulgated by the IFAC;
- the IFAC Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, developed and issued by IFAC’s International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA), which establishes fundamental ethical principles for Auditors with regard to integrity, objectivity, independence, professional competence and due care, confidentiality, professional behaviour and technical standards. Although ISRS 4400 provides that independence is not a requirement for agreed-upon procedures engagements, the Contracting Authority requires that the Auditor is independent from the Beneficiary(ies) and complies with the independence requirements of the IFAC Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants.

1.6. Procedures, Evidence and Documentation

The Auditor plans the work so that an effective expenditure verification can be performed. The Auditor performs the procedures listed in Annex 2A of these ToR (‘Listing of specific procedures to be performed’) and applies the guidelines in Annex 2B (Guidelines for specific procedures to be performed). The evidence to be used for performing the procedures in Annex 2A is all financial and non-financial information which makes it possible to examine the expenditure claimed by the Coordinator in the Financial Report. The Auditor uses the evidence obtained from these procedures as the basis for the report of factual findings. The Auditor documents matters which are important in providing evidence to support the report of factual findings, and evidence that the work was carried out in accordance with ISRS 4400 and these ToR.

1.7. Reporting

The report on this expenditure verification should describe the purpose, the agreed-upon procedures and the factual findings of the engagement in sufficient detail to enable the Coordinator and the Contracting Authority to understand the nature and extent of the procedures performed by the Auditor and the factual findings reported by the Auditor.

The use of the Model Report for an Expenditure Verification of an EU Grant Contract in Annex 3 of these ToR is compulsory. This report should be provided by the Auditor to „**Udruženje Nešto više**“ within 6 days after the day of signature of these ToR.

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Other Terms

The fee for this engagement shall be 4.000,00 KM.

- Annex 1** Information about the Grant Contract
- Annex 2A** Listing of specific procedures to be performed
- Annex 2B** Guidelines for specific procedures to be performed
- Annex 3** Model report for an expenditure verification of an EU grant contract

For the Coordinator:

Signature

Aleksandar Bundalo

11.12.2018.

For the Auditor:

Signature

Alen Hadzic

11.12.2018.



OVLAŠTENI REVIZOR
HADŽIĆ ALEN
REG.BR. : 3090030184



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Annex 1

Information about the Grant Contract

| Information about the Grant Contract | |
|---|---|
| Reference number and date of the Grant Contract | <u>Contract BIH/15/01/EUR No.40189501</u> |
| Grant contract title | <i>„ Local employment Partnership (LEP)“</i> |
| Country | B&H |
| Coordinator | Udruženje „ Nešto više “ Sarajevo |
| Project co beneficiaries | Općina Teslić |
| Start date of the implementation period of the Action | 16. June 2017. |
| End date of the implementation period of the Action | 15. December 2018. |
| Total [accepted] [eligible] cost of the Action | 220.351,88 EUR |
| Grant maximum amount | 199.724,34 EUR |
| Total amount received to date by the Coordinator from Contracting Authority | 179.591,70 EUR |
| Total amount of the payment request | 20.132,64 EUR |
| Contracting Authority | THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION |
| European Commission | Dzermal Hodzic (hodzic@ilo.org) |
| Auditor | Alen Hadžić Euro-Biro doo, Sarajevo Hifzi Bjelevca br. 86 Tel/Fax: 033 765 120, mob. 061-319-169 |

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Annex 2A Listing of Specific Procedures to be performed

1 GENERAL PROCEDURES

1.1. Terms and Conditions of the Grant Contract

The Auditor:

- obtains an understanding of the terms and conditions of the Grant Contract by reviewing the Grant Contract and its annexes and other relevant information, and by inquiry of the Coordinator;
- obtains a copy of the original Grant Contract (signed by the Beneficiary(ies) and the Contracting Authority) with its annexes;
- obtains and reviews the Report (which includes a narrative and a financial section) as per Article 2.1 of the General Conditions;
- verifies whether the Grant Contract is mono or multi-beneficiary (see Grant Contract introduction part; in case of a multi-beneficiary grant the term 'Coordinator' is used);
- verifies whether there is (are) an affiliated entity(ies) to any of the Beneficiary(ies) (see Article 7.1 of the Special Conditions).

Note: the purpose of the latter two procedures is for the Auditor to understand the Beneficiary(ies) responsibilities for reporting and access to staff and documents.

The Practical Guide ('PRAG') provides important information for grant contracts (e.g. basic rules and award procedures). Where necessary or useful reference will be made to the PRAG and / or its annexes.

The PRAG can be found at: <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/document.do> (use the CTRL key to use link).

The latest key documents that are specifically related to grant contracts can be downloaded by clicking on PRAG, then on Annexes, then on Grants. The version indicated in the Call for Proposal and signed is the one to be used as reference.

1.2. Financial Report for the Grant Contract

The Auditor verifies that the Financial Report complies with the following conditions of Article 2 of the General Conditions the Grant Contract:

- The Financial Report must conform to the model in Annex VI of the Grant Contract;
- The Financial Report should cover the eligible costs of the Action as a whole, regardless of which part of it is financed by the Contracting Authority;
- The Financial Report should be drawn up in the language of the Grant Contract;

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- The proof of the transfers of ownership of equipment, vehicles and supplies for which the purchase cost was more than €5 000 per item (Article 7.6 of the General Conditions of the Grant Contract) should be annexed to the final Financial Report.

1.3. Rules for Accounting and Record keeping

- The Auditor examines — when performing the procedures listed in this Annex — whether the Beneficiary has complied with the rules for accounting and record keeping of Article 16 of the General Conditions the Grant Contract including and notably:
 - The accounts kept by the Beneficiary for the implementation of the Action must be accurate and regular;
 - The Beneficiary must have a double-entry book-keeping system;
 - The accounts and expenditure relating to the Action must be easily traceable, identifiable and verifiable.

1.4. Reconciling the Financial Report to the Beneficiary(ies)'s Accounting System and Records

The Auditor reconciles the information in the Financial Report to the Beneficiary's accounting system and records (e.g. trial balance, general ledger accounts, sub ledgers etc.).

1.5. Exchange Rates

The Auditor verifies that the financial report for the Action is stated in the currency set out in the Special Conditions and in accordance with Article 15.9 of the General Conditions. The Auditor verifies that costs incurred in other currencies than the one used in the Beneficiary's accounts for the Action have been converted in accordance with the Beneficiary's usual accounting practices and in accordance with Article 15.10 of the General Conditions unless otherwise provided for in the Special Conditions.

1.6. Simplified Cost Options

- The Auditor verifies with **Annex III of the Grant Contract** i.e. **Budget for the Action** whether the Beneficiary(ies) have applied for the application of simplified costs i.e. for the application of any or a combination of unit costs, lump sums and flat-rate financing. Eligible costs for the Action may be based on any or a combination of actual costs incurred, unit costs, lump sums and flat-rate financing. Simplified cost options can apply to one or more of the direct cost headings of the Budget for the Action and Financial Report (i.e. cost headings 1 to 6), or to sub-cost headings or to specific cost items within these cost headings.
- The Auditor obtains an understanding of the conditions set out in:
 - **Article 2.1.c) of the General Conditions.** This Article stipulates that in case of simplified

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cost options the Report for the Action (narrative and financial) shall provide the qualitative and quantitative information needed to demonstrate the fulfilment of the conditions for reimbursement established in the Special Conditions;

- **Articles 14.3 to 14.5** of the General Conditions; provisions for simplified cost options.
- **Article 7.1** of the special Conditions for apportionment.

If simplified cost options apply, the Auditor performs the specific procedures set out at 3.1.(2) below.

2. PROCEDURES TO VERIFY CONFORMITY OF EXPENDITURE WITH THE BUDGET AND ANALYTICAL REVIEW

2.1. Budget of the Grant Contract

The Auditor carries out an analytical review of the expenditure headings in the Financial Report.

The Auditor verifies that the budget in the Financial Report corresponds with the budget of the Grant Contract (authenticity and authorisation of the initial budget) and that the expenditure incurred was indicated in the budget of the Grant Contract.

2.2. Amendments to the Budget of the Grant Contract

The Auditor verifies whether there have been amendments to the budget of the Grant Contract. Where this is the case the Auditor verifies that the Coordinator has:

- Requested an amendment to the budget and obtained an addendum to the Grant Contract if such an addendum was required (Article 9 of the General Conditions).
- Informed the Contracting Authority about the amendment if the amendment was within the scope of Article 9.4 of the General Conditions, and an addendum to the Grant Contract was not required.

3. PROCEDURES TO VERIFY SELECTED EXPENDITURE

3.1. Eligibility of Costs

The Auditor verifies, for each expenditure item selected, the eligibility criteria set out below.

(1) Actual costs incurred (Article 14.1)

The Auditor verifies that the actual expenditure for a selected item was incurred by and pertains to the Beneficiary (ies) or its (their) affiliated entity (ies). The Auditor should take into account the detailed conditions for actual costs incurred as set out in Article 14.1.(i) to (iii). For this purpose the Auditor examines supporting documents (e.g. invoices, contracts) and proof of

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payment. The Auditor also examines proof of work done, goods received or services rendered and he/she verifies the existence of assets if applicable.

At final reporting stage the costs incurred during the implementation period but not yet paid can be accepted as actual costs incurred, provided that (1) a liability exists (order, invoice or equivalent) for services rendered or goods supplied during the implementation period of the action, (2) the final costs are known and (3) these costs are listed in the final Financial Report (Annex VI) together with the estimated date of payment (see Article 14.1.a).ii) of the General Conditions). The Auditor verifies whether these cost items have effectively been paid at the moment of the auditor's verification.

(2) Simplified cost options² (Article 14.3 – 14.5)

Where simplified cost options apply (see general procedure 1.6) the Auditor verifies:

- Which options (i.e. unit costs, lump sums or flat-rate financing) apply and to which (sub)cost-headings and/or cost items (Annex III (Budget for the Action) of the Grant Contract);
- Which amount(s) or percentage rate(s) have been contractually agreed (Annex III (Budget of the Action) of the Grant Contract);
- Which quantitative and/or qualitative information was used to determine and justify the declared costs (e.g. number of staff, number of items purchased; type of costs and activities financed by a lump sum)³;
- whether the maximum amounts of simplified cost options for each beneficiary (this includes if applicable simplified cost options of its affiliated entity(ies)) are not exceeded, in accordance with the conditions established in the Contract;
- The plausibility (i.e. necessity, reasonableness, reality) of the quantitative and qualitative information related to the declared costs;
- That the costs covered by lump sums, unit costs or flat-rate financing are not included (no double funding) in other direct costs (cost headings 1 – 6), either actual or under simplified cost options;
- That the total costs stated in the Financial Report have been correctly determined;

Note: the Auditor is not required to verify the actual costs on which lump sums, unit costs or

² Refer to Annex "E3a2 Checklist for simplified cost options" to the PRAG for additional information.

³ In Annex III (Budget for the Action), the second column of worksheet no.2 ("Justification of the estimated costs") for each of the corresponding budget item or heading should:

- describe the information and methods used to establish the amounts or percentages of simplified cost options, to which costs they refer, etc.;
- explain the formulas for calculation of the final eligible amount;
- identify the beneficiary who use the simplified cost option (in case of affiliated entity, specify first the beneficiary), in order to verify the maximum amount for each beneficiary (which includes if applicable simplified cost options of its affiliated entity(ies)).

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flat-rate financing are based.

(3) Cut-off — Implementation period (Article 14.1a)

The Auditor verifies that the expenditure for a selected item was incurred during the implementation period of the Action. An exception is made for costs relating to final reports including expenditure verification, audit and final evaluation reports of the Action and which may be incurred after the implementation period of the Action.

(4) Budget (Article 14.1b)

The Auditor verifies that the expenditure for a selected item was indicated in the Action budget.

(5) Necessary (Article 14.1c)

The Auditor verifies whether it is plausible that the expenditure for a selected item was necessary for the implementation of the Action and that it had to be incurred for the contracted activities of the Action by examining the nature of the expenditure with supporting documents.

(6) Records (Article 14.1d)

The Auditor verifies that expenditure for a selected item is recorded in the Beneficiary(ies)'s accounting system and was recorded in accordance with the applicable accounting standards of the country where the Beneficiary is established and the Beneficiary's usual cost accounting practices.

(7) Applicable legislation (Article 14.1e)

The Auditor verifies that expenditure complies with the requirements of tax and social security legislation where this is applicable (for example: employer's part of taxes, pension premiums and social security charges).

(8) Justified (Article 14.1f)

The Auditor verifies that expenditure for a selected item is substantiated by evidence (see section 1 of Annex 2B, Guidelines for Specific Procedures to be performed) and supporting documents as specified in Article 16.8 and 16.9 of the General Conditions of the Grant Contract.

(9) Valuation

The Auditor verifies that the monetary value of a selected expenditure item agrees with underlying documents (e.g. invoices, salary statements) and that correct exchange rates are used where applicable.

(10) Classification

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The Auditor examines the nature of the expenditure for a selected item and verifies that the expenditure item has been classified under the correct (sub)heading of the Financial Report.

(11) Compliance with Procurement Principles and Nationality and Origin Rules

The Auditor verifies whether the Beneficiary has concluded implementation contracts with contractors as set out in Articles 10.1 and 14.1.a(iv) of the General Conditions and to which expenditure (sub)heading(s), a class(es) of expenditure items or expenditure item(s) this applies.

The Auditor verifies for the expenditure items concerned whether the Beneficiary has complied with the principles for procurement and the nationality and origin rules as set out in Annex IV (Procurement by grant Beneficiaries in the context of European Union external actions)

For this purpose the Auditor inspects the underlying documents of the procurement and purchase process including where applicable proof of nationality and origin.

Where the Auditor finds issues of non-compliance, he/she reports the nature of such issues as well as their financial impact in terms of ineligible expenditure. When examining supporting documents the Auditor takes into account the risk indicators listed at the end of Annex 2B.

3.2. Eligible Direct Costs (Article 14.2)

- (1) The Auditor verifies that expenditure for selected items which are recorded under one of the direct costs headings (1 to 6) of the Financial Report, are covered by the direct costs as defined in Article 14.2 by examining the nature of these expenditure items.
- (2) The Auditor verifies that duties, taxes and charges, including VAT which are recorded under direct costs are **not recoverable** by the beneficiary (ies) and/ or its(their) affiliated entities (see Article 14.2.g) of the General Conditions). The Auditor obtains evidence that the Beneficiary (ies) and or its affiliated entities cannot reclaim the duties, taxes or charges, including VAT through an exemption system and/or a refund *a posteriori*. For this purpose the Auditor should refer to Annex E3a1 (Information on the tax regime) which provides information on the tax regime applicable to grant contracts (*Note*: the standard template / text is annexed to the PRAG and it can be found at the PRAG website mentioned at procedure 1.1 above).

In case Article 7 of the Special Conditions provides that duties, taxes and charges, including VAT are not eligible, but the "accepted costs system" is introduced: they remain ineligible costs, but they can be accepted as co-financing. Therefore the Auditor additionally verifies that the tax amount concerned is reported under heading 12 of the financial report, is properly computed, in line with supporting documents (e.g. invoices) and relate to eligible costs and cost items included under headings 1 to 10 of the Financial Report.

3.3. Contingency Reserve (Article 14.6)

The Auditor verifies that the provision for contingency reserve (heading 8 in Financial Report) does not exceed 5% of the direct eligible costs of the Action and that the Coordinator has obtained prior written authorisation from the Contracting Authority for the use of this contingency reserve.

3.4. Indirect costs (Article 14.7)

The Auditor verifies that the indirect costs to cover overhead costs (heading 10 in Financial Report) do not exceed the maximum percentage of 7% of the total final amount of eligible direct costs of the Action or the percentage established in article 3 of the Special Conditions of the Grant Contract if applicable.

3.5. In kind contributions (Article 14.8)

- (1) The Auditor verifies that the costs in the Financial Report do not include contributions in kind. Any contributions in kind (these should be listed separately in Annex III, Budget for the Action), do **not** represent actual expenditure and are not eligible costs.
- (2) Contributions in kind can be accepted as co-financing and in this case this should be explicitly stipulated in Article 7.1 of the Grant Contract. The Auditor verifies whether such co-financing is applicable and whether it is properly stated under heading 12 of the Financial Report.

3.6. Non-eligible costs (Article 14.9)

The Auditor verifies that the expenditure for a selected item does not concern an ineligible cost as described in Article 14.9 of the General Conditions. These costs include *inter alia* currency exchange losses.

3.7. Revenues of the Action

The Auditor examines whether the revenues which should be attributed to the Action (including grants and funding received from other donors and other revenue generated by the Beneficiary as part of the Action have been allocated to the Action and disclosed in the Financial Report. For this purpose the Auditor inquires with the Beneficiary and examines documentation obtained from the Beneficiary (ies). The Auditor is not expected to examine the completeness of the revenues reported.

Annex 2B Guidelines for Specific Procedures to be performed

1. VERIFICATION EVIDENCE

When performing the specific procedures listed in Annex 2A, the Auditor may apply techniques such as inquiry and analysis, (re)computation, comparison, other clerical accuracy checks, observation, inspection of records and documents, inspection of assets and obtaining confirmations.

The Auditor obtains verification evidence from these procedures to draw up the report of factual findings. Verification evidence is all information used by the Auditor in arriving at the factual findings and it includes the information contained in the accounting records underlying the Financial Report and other information (financial and non-financial).

The contractual requirements that relate to verification evidence are:

- Expenditure should be identifiable, verifiable and recorded in the accounting records of the Beneficiary (Article 14.1.d of the General Conditions of the Grant Contract);
- The Beneficiary (ies) will allow any external auditor to carry out verifications on the basis of supporting documents for the accounts, accounting documents and any other document relevant to the financing of the Action. The Beneficiary gives access to all documents and databases concerning the technical and financial management of the Action (Article 16.3 of the General Conditions);
- Article 16.9 of the General Conditions of the Grant Contract provides a list of the types and nature of evidence that the Auditor will often find in expenditure verifications.

Moreover, for the purpose of the procedures listed in Annex 2A, records, accounting and supporting documents:

- shall be easily accessible and filed so as to facilitate their examination (Article 16.7 of the General Conditions);
- Shall be available in the original form, including in electronic form (Article 16.8).

Guidance: records and accounting and supporting documents should be available in documentary form, whether paper, electronic or other medium (e.g. a written record of a meeting is more reliable than an oral presentation of the matters discussed). Electronic documents can be accepted only where:

- the documentation was first received or created (e.g. an order form or confirmation) by the Beneficiary(ies) in electronic form; or
- the Auditor is satisfied that the Beneficiary uses an electronic archiving system which meets established standards (e.g. a certified system which complies with national law).

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- should preferably be obtained from independent sources outside the entity (an original supplier's invoice or contract is more reliable than an internally approved receipt note);
- which is generated internally is more reliable if it has been subject to control and approval;
- Obtained directly by the Auditor (e.g. inspection of assets) is more reliable than evidence obtained indirectly (e.g. inquiry about the asset).

If the Auditor finds that the above criteria for evidence are not sufficiently met, he/she should detail this in the factual findings.

2. OBTAINING AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE GRANT CONTRACT (ANNEX 2A — PROCEDURE 1.1)

The Auditor obtains an understanding of the terms and conditions of the Grant Contract. S/he should **pay particular attention to** Annex I of the Grant Contract (the Description of the Action), Annex II (General Conditions) and **Annex IV (Procurement by grant Beneficiaries in the context of European Union external actions) which provides principles for procurement and nationality and origin rules.. Failure to comply with these principles or rules makes expenditure ineligible for EU financing.**

The Auditor ensures with the Beneficiary that the applicable principles for procurement and the nationality and origin rules are clearly identified and understood. If the Auditor finds that the terms and conditions to be verified are not sufficiently clear he/she should request clarification from the Beneficiary.

3. SELECTING EXPENDITURE FOR VERIFICATION (ANNEX 2A — PROCEDURES 3.1 – 3.7)

The expenditure claimed by the Coordinator in the Financial Report is generally presented under the following expenditure headings: 1. Human Resources, 2. Travel, 3. Equipment and Supplies, 4. Local office, 5. Other costs, services, 6. Other, 8. Provision for contingency reserve and 10. Indirect costs. Expenditure headings 1. to 6. Represent **direct** costs of the Action. Expenditure headings can be broken down into expenditure subheadings such as for example 1.1 Salaries.

Expenditure subheadings can be broken down into individual expenditure items or classes of expenditure items with the same or similar characteristics. The form and nature of the supporting evidence (e.g. a payment, a contract, an invoice etc.) and the way expenditure is recorded (e.g. journal entries) vary with the type and nature of the expenditure and the underlying actions or transactions. However, in all cases expenditure items should reflect the accounting (or financial) value of the underlying actions or transactions, whatever the type and nature of the action or transaction concerned.

Value should be the principal factor used by the Auditor to select expenditure items or classes of expenditure items for verification. The Auditor selects high-value expenditure items to ensure an appropriate coverage of expenditure.

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4. VERIFICATION COVERAGE OF EXPENDITURE (ANNEX 2A — PROCEDURES 3.1 – 3.7)

The Auditor applies the principles and criteria set out below when planning and performing the specific verification procedures for selected expenditure in Annex 2A (procedures 3.1–3.7).

Verification by the Auditor and verification coverage of expenditure items does not necessarily mean a complete and exhaustive verification of all the expenditure items that are included in a specific expenditure heading or subheading. The Auditor should ensure a systematic and representative verification. Depending on certain conditions (see further below) the Auditor may obtain sufficient verification results for an expenditure heading or subheading by looking at a limited number of selected expenditure items.

The Auditor may apply statistical sampling techniques for the verification of one or more expenditure headings or subheadings of the Financial Report. The Auditor examines whether ‘populations’ (i.e. expenditure subheadings or classes of expenditure items within expenditure subheadings) are suitable and sufficiently large (i.e. are made up of large numbers of items) for effective statistical sampling.

If applicable the Auditor should explain in the report of factual findings for which headings or subheadings of the Financial Report sampling has been applied, the method used, the results obtained and whether the sample is representative.

The Expenditure Coverage Ratio (‘ECR’) is the total amount of expenditure verified by the Auditor, expressed as a percentage of the total amount of expenditure reported by the Coordinator in the Financial Report. This amount is reported in Annex V of the Grant Contract.

The Auditor ensures that the overall ECR is at least **65%**. If he/she finds an exception rate of less than 10% of the total amount of expenditure verified (i.e. 6.5%) the Auditor finalises the verification procedures and continues with reporting.

If the exception rate found is higher than 10% the Auditor extends verification procedures until the ECR is at least **85%**. The Auditor then finalises verification procedures and continues with reporting regardless of the total exception rate found. The Auditor ensures that the **ECR for each expenditure heading and subheading** in the Financial Report is at least **10%**.

5. PROCEDURES TO VERIFY SELECTED EXPENDITURE (ANNEX 2A — PROCEDURES 3.1 – 3.7)

The Auditor verifies the selected expenditure items by carrying out procedures 3.1–3.11 listed in Annex 2A and reports all the factual findings and exceptions resulting from these procedures. Verification exceptions are all verification deviations found when performing the procedures set out in Annex 2A.

The Auditor quantifies the amount of verification exceptions found and the potential impact on the EU contribution, should the Commission declare the expenditure item(s) concerned ineligible (taking into account the percentage of funding by the Commission and the impact on indirect expenditure (e.g. administrative costs, overheads)). The Auditor reports all exceptions found, including those for which he/she cannot quantify the amount of the verification

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exception found and the potential impact on the EU contribution.

Example: if the Auditor finds an exception of €1 000 with regard to procurement principles for a grant contract where the EU finances 60% of the expenditure and where indirect costs represent 7% of total direct eligible expenses, the Auditor reports an exception of €1 000 and a financial impact of 642€ ($€1\,000 \times 60\% \times 1.07$).

RISK INDICATORS PROCUREMENT

- Inconsistencies in the dates of the documents or illogical sequence of dates. Examples:
 - Tender dated after the award of contract or before the sending of the invitations to tender
 - Tender by the winning tenderer dated before the publication date of the tender or dated significantly later than tenders from other tenderers
 - Tenders by different candidates all having the same date
 - Dates on documents not plausible/consistent with dates on accompanying documentation (e.g. date on the tender not plausible/consistent with the postal date on the envelope; date of a fax not plausible/consistent with the printed date of the fax machine)
- Unusual similarities in tenders by candidates participating in the same tender. Examples:
 - Same wording, sentences and terminology in tenders from different tenderers
 - Same layout and format (e.g. font type, font size, margin sizes, indents, paragraph wrapping, etc.) in tenders from different tenderers
 - Similar letterhead paper or logos
 - Same prices used in tenders from different tenderers for a number of subcomponents or line items
 - Identical grammar, spelling or typing errors in tenders from different tenderers
 - Use of similar stamps and similarities in signatures
- Financial statement or other information indicating that two tenderers participating in the same tender are related or part of the same group (e.g. where financial statements are provided, the notes to the financial statements may disclose ultimate ownership of the group. Ownership information may also be found in public registers for accounts.)
- Inconsistencies in the selection and award decision process. Examples:
 - Award decisions not plausible / consistent with selection and award criteria
 - Errors in the application of the selection and award criteria
 - A regular supplier of the beneficiary participates as a member of a tender evaluation committee
- Other elements and examples indicating a risk of a privileged relationship with tenderers:
 - The same tenderer (or small group of tenderers) is invited with unusual frequency to tender for different contracts
 - The same tenderer (or small group of tenderers) wins an unusually high proportion of the bids
 - A tenderer is frequently awarded contracts for different types of goods or services
 - The winning tenderer invoices additional goods not provided for in the tender (e.g. additional spare parts invoiced without clear justification, installation costs invoiced although not provided for in the tender).

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- Other documentation, issues and examples indicating a risk of irregularities:
 - Use of photocopies instead of original documents
 - Use of pro-forma invoices as supporting documents instead of official invoices
 - Manual changes on original documents (e.g. figures manually changed, figures ‘tippexed’, etc.)
 - Use of non-official documents (e.g. letterhead paper not showing certain official and/or compulsory information such as commercial registry number, company tax number, etc.)

