

# AUDIT REPORT

Central Baltic INTERREG V A Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2014 - 2020

DATE OF THE REPORT: 20/12/2018	
Audit number:	CB-14/2018
Date of the final audit report:	20/12/2018
Accounting period	01.07.2017 - 30.06.2018
Audit scope	Report No 4
Auditor(s)	Elis Kõrvek, Auditor of I Audit Unit Financial Control Department of Ministry of Finance of Estonia Suur-Ameerika 1, 10129 Tallinn, Estonia
Place of audit	Tallinn, Estonia
Project name	Pilot watersheds as a practical tool to reduce the harmful inflows into the Baltic Sea
Project Acronym	WATERCHAIN
Project Number	CB50
Priority Axis:	2. Sustainable use of common resources
Project Priority Specific Objectives:	SO 2.4 Reduced nutrients, hazardous substances and toxins' inflows into the Baltic Sea
Audited organisation and contact information	Estonian Environmental Research Centre Marja 4d, 10617 Tallinn
<b>AUDIT CONCLUSION</b>	<p><i>The conclusions of the audit are based on the analysis of the procedure in place, information and documents gathered and interviews conducted in the audited bodies as well as the tests performed in the course of the audit following the checklist for the audit areas.</i></p> <p><i>Based on the audit work performed we have obtained reasonable assurance that the expenditure declared under the audited operation "Pilot watersheds as a practical tool to reduce the harmful inflows into the Baltic Sea" (WATERCHAIN) No CB50 within priority axis 2 during the reference year 01.07.2017 - 30.06.2018 is, in all material aspects, legal and regular.</i></p> <p><i>The summarized list of findings identified during the audit is presented in the following table.</i></p>



No	Financial Impact Total	Financial Impact ERDF	Reference to the Section of the Report, BL and Invoice or contract No.
1.	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sum	N/A	N/A	N/A



## PART 1 - AUDIT SCOPE

According to Article 127(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 the audit authority is responsible to carry out audits on operations on the basis of supporting documents constituting the audit trail and verify the legality and regularity of expenditure declared to the Commission, including the following aspects:

- a) that the operation was selected in accordance with the selection criteria for the operational programme, was not physically completed or fully implemented before the beneficiary submitted the application for funding under the operational programme, has been implemented in accordance with the approval decision and fulfilled any conditions applicable at the time of the audit concerning its functionality, use, and objectives to be attained;
- b) that the expenditure declared to the Commission corresponds to the accounting records and that the required supporting documentation demonstrates an adequate audit trail;
- c) that for expenditure declared to the Commission determined in accordance with Articles 67(1)(b) and (c) and 109 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013, outputs and results underpinning payments to the beneficiary have been delivered, participant data or other records related to outputs and results are consistent with the information submitted to the Commission and that the required supporting documentation demonstrates an adequate audit trail.

Audit was conducted during the period: 22/11/2018 - 20/12/2018 (on-the-spot verification on 30/11/2018 at the premises of the Estonian Environmental Research Centre)

### PART 1.1 - Limitation of scope

*There were no limitations of the scope.*

### PART 1.2 - AUDIT METHODOLOGY

The audit is carried out in compliance with international accepted auditing standards and the audit strategy, which is approved by the audit authority and group of auditors representing each Central Baltic INTERREG VA Programme Member State.

The audit process comprises of three stages:

#### a) Preparation and planning of the audit

In this stage legal regulations and other documentation, including from the management verification ex Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, Article 23(4), needed for familiarising with the selected operations were collected and analysed. Also, interviews or checklists sent if needed for the planning of the audit, familiarising with the functioning of the system, project files structure, the objectives and the status of implementation of the operations, the risk encountered during the implementation as well as those inherent to the type of operations.

#### b) Fieldwork

At this stage a whole range of interviews with responsible staff were conducted, documents were gathered and testing was performed. In order to attain the audit objectives during the audit we



tested all applicable audit areas. We performed the audit using the checklists for the several audit areas which enabled us to verify the requirements laid down in European and national legislation. With the aim to attain the audit objectives, the fieldwork was carried out including on the spot visits on.

**c) Reporting**

This stage encompassed activities related to the preparation of the Draft Report and the contradictory procedure where auditee has been granted 10 working days to reflect on the audit report, the inclusion of their replies and comments and the submission of the Final Report.

*Provide the actual schedule of the contradictory procedure as following*

Preliminary report:	20/12/2018
Final report:	20/12/2018



## PART 2 - FINANCIAL DATA OF OPERATION

Financial data of audited partner must be listed

PART 2.1 - BUDGET (€)				
Audited Partners approved budget	Granted in total for the partner	%	Payments included in the payment claim	%
ERDF	€ 202 831.25	85%	€ 35 407.35	85%
<b>Public funding (total)</b>	<b>€ 35793.75</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>€ 6 248.35</b>	<b>15%</b>
Private funding	€ 0.00	0%	€ 0.00	0%
Income	€ 0.00	0%	€ 0.00	0%
<b>TOTAL PARTNER BUDGET</b>	<b>€ 238625.00</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>€ 41 655.70</b>	<b>100%</b>

Audited expenditure (according to the Sample)			
Budget Line		Total amount audited (combining milestones)	Ineligible detected in audit scope
1.	Staff costs	€ 30 958.96	€ 0.00
2.	Office and administration	€ 4 643.83	€ 0.00
3.	Travel and accommodation	€ 1 532.70	€ 0.00
4.	External expertise and services	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
5.	Equipment	€ 4520.21	€ 0.00
6.	Infrastructure and works	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
<b>Total amount audited</b>		<b>€ 41 655.70</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>

Audited expenditure (outside the Sample )			
Budget Line		Total amount audited (combining milestones)	Ineligible
1.	Staff costs	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
2.	Office and administration	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
3.	Travel and accommodation	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
4.	External expertise and services	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
5.	Equipment	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
6.	Infrastructure and works	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
<b>Total amount audited</b>		<b>€ 0.00</b>	<b>€ 0.00</b>



## PART 3 - FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### PART 3.1 GENERAL

During the audit we identify and document audit findings. We categorise these findings by reference to the level of importance. The categories which we use to classify our findings are as follows:

<b>Major</b>	Findings which have financial impact or any other high risk deficiencies.
<b>Minor</b>	Findings for which action should be taken to ensure full compliance but have no financial consequences.

### PART 3.2 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS PER BUDGET LINE

In this paragraph the findings and recommendations per audit area are included

No findings



## **PART 4 - FOLLOW-UP**

This audit report is compiled for use of the Audit Authority of the Central Baltic INTERREG VA 2014-2020 Programme and will be used to draw conclusions about functioning of the Management and control system of the above mentioned programme. Information in the report will be disclosed to relevant parties involved of management of the EU funds, including Commission services.

Parties responsible of audit finding follow-up:

1. Findings with Financial impact - The Audit Authority (AA) will inform the Managing Authority (MA) to take necessary actions to correct shortcomings in the system;
  - a. Deductions will be made by the MA;
  - b. Confirmation of deductions will be made by the AA;
  - c. If needed follow-up audit will be done by GoA member.
2. Findings without the Financial impact
  - a. The MA will be informed and evaluation will be done if further actions are needed;
  - b. Confirmation of actions will be followed-up by the AA and if needed by the GoA member.

Upon request from the MA the Auditee is responsible to implement the recommendations and deliver the proof to the MA.

***Auditor: Elis Kõrvek***

***Position: Audit Manager***

***Signed electronically***

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***Head of Unit: Kadi Peets***

***Position: Audit Supervisor***

***Signed electronically***

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