



I Financial Issues

Exchange Rates

Background

Five different currencies are used in the seven countries participating in the North Sea Programme. In this Fact Sheet some guidance on how to address the currency issue on project level is described.

Guidance

The currency issue and how to address exchange rate problems will have to be decided before the project is started. It is recommended that the issue is dealt with in a contract between the Lead Beneficiary and the other beneficiaries.

There are a number of different solutions to choose from:

1. All statements from the Lead Beneficiary to the programme secretariat are completed in Euro. The project partners convert their expenses from their national currency into Euro. These converted figures are used by the Lead Beneficiary to fill in the periodic report form.
2. All statements from the Lead Beneficiary to the programme secretariat are completed in Euro. The project beneficiaries send their figures to the Lead Beneficiary in their national currency. The Lead Beneficiary has to convert all the received figures into Euro and use the converted figures to fill in the Periodic Report Table.
3. All statements from the Lead Beneficiary to the programme Secretariat are completed in the Lead Beneficiaries national currency. The project beneficiaries send their figures to the Lead Beneficiary in their national currency. The Lead Beneficiary converts all the received figures into the Lead Beneficiaries national currency and uses these converted figures to fill in the Periodic Report Table.

When the statements of expenditure regarding a project are converted into Euro, the Commission monthly exchange rates for the month, in which the statement of project expenditure and source of funding (Periodic Report) is completed, must be used. These rules apply both for the individual beneficiary and for the entire partnership statements.

The exchange rates shown on the website of the European Commission (address below) are not official, so we recommend that you always verify these rates in the Official Journal of European Union.

When checking the Official Journals of European Union, you must make sure that the monthly exchange rate shown on the European Commission's website is similar to the one, which can be found in the Official Journal for the last but one working day at the Commission in the month preceding the month in which the statement of project expenditure and source of funding (Periodic Report) is completed. These exchange rates can be found in the Communications section of the Official Journal, which is normally published the day after (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOIndex.do?ihmlang=en>).

There is a site for each currency shown below:

- Norwegian kroner:
http://ec.europa.eu/budget/inforeuro/index.cfm?fuseaction=currency_historique¤cy=NOK&Language=en
- Swedish kroner:
http://ec.europa.eu/budget/inforeuro/index.cfm?fuseaction=currency_historique¤cy=SEK&Language=en
- Danish kroner:
http://ec.europa.eu/budget/inforeuro/index.cfm?fuseaction=currency_historique¤cy=DKK&Language=en
- English pound:
http://ec.europa.eu/budget/inforeuro/index.cfm?fuseaction=currency_historique¤cy=GBP&Language=en

When the programme Secretariat is paying the projects, the amount paid will be in Euro. If the Lead Beneficiary wants to be paid in national currency the Euro amount will be converted using the exchange rate on the day the payment is carried out.

This means that the Secretariat will always convert all statements to Euro and calculate the payment in Euro. The Secretariat will monitor the project expenditure in Euro and suggests that Lead Beneficiaries do the same.

The exchange rate used by the Secretariat for converting statements expressed in a national currency, will also be the Commission's exchange rate from the last but one working day in the month preceding the month during the date the payment claim is received by the Secretariat.

References

- Council Regulation (EC) 1083/2006 Art 81