

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme  
Kirchberggasse 33-35/11 | 1070 Vienna | Austria

Contact Alice Overnell  
Phone +43 1 89080882403  
E-Mail [info@interreg-central.eu](mailto:info@interreg-central.eu)

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**Protocol number: 014/2020**

**Subject: COVID -19 situation**

Dear Lead partner,

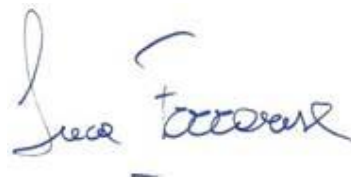
The COVID-19 situation is currently affecting all CENTRAL EUROPE countries. This, in turn, has led to a number of questions from projects on how to deal with possible consequences on project implementation such as cancellation of meetings, delayed activities etc.

The MA/JS of the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme is aware of the difficult situation. However, projects should, to the maximum possible extent, strive to continue implementing the foreseen activities according to the planned schedule. Therefore, Lead partners are advised to consult with their entire partnership about suitable mitigation measures. This could include, among others, also the skipping of marginal activities, which are not affecting the core of the project. As a general principle, it is strongly recommended to make use of digital means in order to replace physical meetings and events in order to keep the planned timelines. This is of particular importance for the projects that are now reaching their end and are e.g. planning final conferences.

We would like to highlight that, as stated in the Interreg CE Implementation manual chapter D.3.5, project extensions will only be granted in exceptional and duly justified cases and will be decided on a case by case basis. Therefore the partnership should first try all possible options as mentioned above.

For further guidance and in case of questions, please consult your responsible Project and Finance Manager at the Joint Secretariat.

Yours sincerely,



Luca Ferrarese  
Head of the Joint Secretaria