

The Minutes from the written procedure of the Monitoring Committee

5 July 2024 – 19 July 2024

In accordance with the Article 9 of the Rules of Procedures of the Monitoring Committee, the written procedure was held from 5 July 2024 until 19 July 2024. The following issues were subject to the Monitoring Committee decision:

- ▶ Approval of the change in the Programme Manual;
- ▶ Approval of the change in the partnership in DigiTechPort2030 project;
- ▶ Approval of the change in the partnership in BALTWRECK project.

1. Background information on the requested change in the Programme Manual:

On 10th June 2024, the Regulation of the Minister of Funds and Regional Policy from 4th June 2024 was announced, amending the regulation on granting de minimis aid and public aid under Interreg programmes. The regulation takes into account new provisions on de minimis aid adopted by the European Commission in Regulation 2023/2831. Changes in the Manual are mainly related to the regulation described above and have adaptive character. Additionally, information on granting and reporting indirect state aid was specified and details related to preparation lump sum were included.

Furthermore, the date of the Monitoring Committee meeting after the closure of the respective call was proposed to be changed to 18 weeks (instead of 14 weeks). The proposed change was in line with the practice in the Programme as well as the internal rules of the Joint Secretariat (Office Manual) which includes necessary time slots for the assessment process of submitted projects.

Recommendation:

- ▶ The proposal was to approve the proposed changes to the Programme Manual.

2. Background information on the requested change in the DigiTechPort2030 project:

The lead partner (Hochschule Wismar, University of Applied Sciences: Technology, Business and Design) of the DigiTechPort2030 project (approved in the 1st call for proposals) requested for a withdrawal of the project partner 8 (Euro Terminal Real Estate Sp. z o.o.). The lead partner agreed that responsibilities will be taken over by the Euro Terminal Sp. z o.o.

PP8 Euro Terminal Real Estate sp. z o.o. (ETRE) is a landlord, owner of equipment, and provider of stevedoring services at the terminal. It does not employ any people but uses personnel hired by Euro Terminal Sp. z o.o. for administration and rendering port services, including management services. Due to initial misunderstanding of the Programme requirement it was decided that Euro Terminal Real Estate Sp. z o.o. would act as a partner in the project.

In view of the above-mentioned inability of the Euro Terminal Real Estate Sp. z o.o. to hire employees, the partnership to replace the PP8 Euro Terminal Real Estate Sp. z o.o. with Euro Terminal Sp. z o.o. to act as a direct Project Partner. Euro Terminal Sp. z o.o. will take over the tasks and the budget.

Eligibility of the partner was confirmed by the relevant CP. State aid assessment on the change was performed by external assessor. All activities and the full budget of the new partner fall under state aid. It is possible to grant the aid under GBER20 or de minimis, the scheme will be specified during introduction of changes and annexing the Subsidy Contract if the change will be approved.

Recommendation:

- ▶ The proposal was to approve the partnership change in DigiTechPort2030 project and to replace Euro Terminal Real Estate Sp. z o.o. into Euro Terminal Sp. z o.o. The change comes into force on 2024-03-01.

3. Background information on the requested change in the BALTWRECK project:

The lead partner (Institute of Fluid-Flow Machinery Polish Academy of Sciences - IOPAN) of the BALTWRECK project (approved in the 2nd call for proposals and still under clarification, i.e. before signing the Subsidy contract) requested for a withdrawal of the project partner 2 (Institute of Oceanology Polish Academy of Sciences). The lead partner agreed that responsibilities will be taken over by University of Gdańsk.

The lead partner provided the information that due to having a significant number of projects, the administrative capacity of IOPAN is exceeded. University of Gdańsk – UG would take over the tasks and the budget. The new partner has similar characteristics to IOPAN. In case of missing capacity of the new partner external expertise would be contracted.

The new partner was considered eligible by the JS. State aid assessment on the change was performed by external assessor, the activities and the budget of the new partner do not fall under state aid. Other changes related to conditions and clarifications are ongoing within the clarification process.

Recommendation:

- ▶ The proposal was to approve the partnership change in BALTWRECK project and to replace Institute of Fluid-Flow Machinery Polish Academy of Sciences – IOPAN into University of Gdańsk. The change comes into force on 2024-07-01.

Outcome of the written procedure

The Swedish delegation abstained from voting on the proposed changes.

The Danish delegation approved the changes as proposed.

The joint delegation of Euroregions abstained from voting on the proposed changes.

The Lithuanian delegation abstained from voting on the proposed changes.

The Polish delegation abstained from voting on the proposed changes.

The German delegation abstained from voting on the proposed changes.

Decision

The proposed changes to the Programme Manual and changes in the partnership of the DigiTechPort2030 and BALTWRECK projects have been approved by the Monitoring Committee.