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Interreg South Baltic Programme 2021–2027

SL2021 – User Manual – Payment Claims

version 2.1

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I INTRODUCTION

The following document contains instructions on how to use the payment claims system. It is addressed to Lead Partners, Beneficiaries and Partners of Projects implemented under the Interreg South Baltic 2021-2027.

Before you start working in the system and read the rest of this guide, please read the following information:

- 1. Substantive requirements describing the correct way to implement and account for projects can be found in the current Programme Manual.
- 2. If the description of specific system functions (including views, available options, etc.) is different for the user representing the Lead Partner, different for the Beneficiary and different for the user representing the Project Partner, this is clearly indicated in the text. Otherwise, the given description pertains to equally the Lead Partner, the Beneficiary and the Project Partner.
- 3. The term 'Beneficiary' as used in the system refers to the Lead Partner and the Project Partner, depending on the context, i.e. the form on which it appears.
- 4. The Beneficiary receives access to the SL2021 system and follows the instruction of the 'SL2021 user manual'. To see the project under the List of Projects it is necessary to choose the work context by clicking on the "person" icon in the top right corner of the screen. The "Projekty" module has to be selected on the first page in order to have access to the project.
- 5. All amounts in a payment claim should be provided in EUR except for the gross and net amounts for the supporting documents for expenditure in the List of documents block (it may be provided in the national currency if it is different than EUR).
- 6. The following abbreviations are used in the guide:

LP - Lead Partner,

PP – Project Partner

JS - Joint Secretariat

Controller - First Level Controller (FLC)

Institution - JS and the Controller

In case of any issues regarding the system's operation or the occurrence of errors, provide details that include a description of the error along with screenshots. This information should be sent to the administrators' email addresses at the JS or the appropriate IT Manager: ami.sthb@southbaltic.eu, AMIZ.STHB@mfipr.gov.pl.



II PAYMENT CLAIMS

The system distinguishes between the following types of payment claims:

- Partial payment claims are payment claims forwarded by the Beneficiary to the relevant Controller. They relate only to the part of the project implemented by either the LP or the PP.
- ▲ Collective payment claims are payment claims forwarded only by the LP to the JS. They relate to the entire project and are created on the basis of partial payment claims approved by the Controllers.

Note:

Collective payment claim number contains the project number, 3 digits indicating the number of the project's payment claim, the last two are version of the payment claim while numbers of a partial payment claims end with -R00 for a Lead Partner and R01, R02,... for other Project Partners. For example:

- STHB.01.01-IP.01-0001/21-001-02
- is No. of collective payment claim;
- STHB.01.01-IP.01-0001/21-001-02-R06
- is No. of partial payment claim for PP6.

1 GO TO THE LIST OF PAYMENT CLAIMS

Payment claims can be accessed from the level of:

1. projects list after clicking on the icon

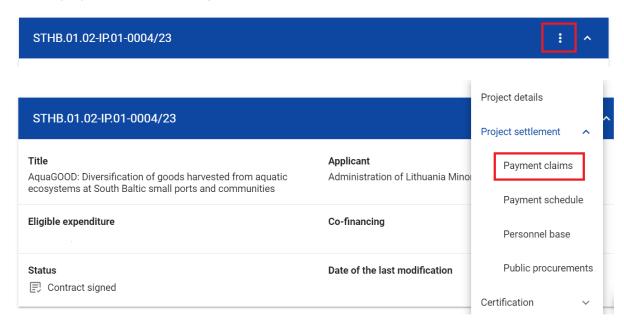


Figure 1. Transition to payment claims from the projects list



PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION A **Project information** BLOCKS OF DATA 🗸 PROJECT MANAGEMENT 🗸 Project details Project data Project settlement Project title Payment claims AquaGOOD: Diversification of goods harvested from aquatic ecosystems at South Baltic small ports and Payment schedule Total expenditure Eligible expenditure Personnel base Co-financing **UE Co-financing** Public procurements Project start date Project end date Certification

2. project details in the 'Project implementation' menu:

Figure 2. Transition to payment claims from project data

At the very top of the view, a permanent data block with basic project information is available: 'Project number', 'Title', 'Beneficiary name', 'Project status', 'Change request status'.



Figure 3. Top view of project data block

You will be able submit payment claims only for projects with a status of 'Contract signed'.

2 LIST OF PAYMENT CLAIMS

If you are a LP, you will see a list of your collective payment claims when you go to payment claims. In addition, you have access to the 'Show Payment Claims' menu, which allows you to navigate to partial payment claims and return to the collective payment claims again. Please note that a Lead Partner is determined as PP0 in the system.





Figure 4. Show Payment Claims menu

In the list of partial payment claims, you will see your partial payment claims and partial payment claims prepared by Project Partners.

If you are **PP** in the project, the list of payment claims shows your partial payment claims and the collective payment claims prepared by the LP You will not be able to view the details in the collective payment claims, but you will be able to access the most important information that concern you, e.g. the status of the collective payment claims, whether the JS has approved it, etc.

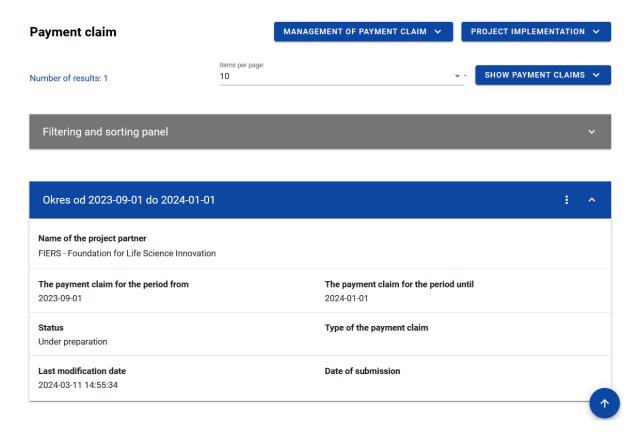


Figure 5. View of the list of payment claims



In the list of payment claims, you can see basic information about the payment claims in the project, i.e.: 'period for which the claim has been submitted' or the 'Payment Claim Number' if assigned (shown on the blue bar), 'Partner Name' (only shown if it is a partial payment claim), 'The payment claim for the period until', 'Payment claim status', 'Type of the payment claim', 'Last modification date', 'Date of submission' (the field remains blank until the payment claim has been submitted).

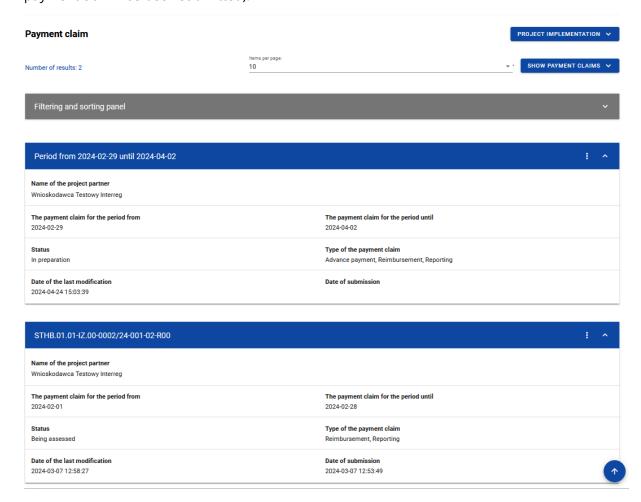


Figure 6. View of details of a selected payment claim in the list of payment claims

From the list of payment claims, for the selected payment claim, after clicking the three dots on the blue bar you will have access to the following functions:

- Payment claim preview,
- Ledit (if editing is possible).

The other elements that can be viewed are the following:

- \ 'Management of payment claim' menu:
 - if you are a LP, the system gives access to the following functions: Create a new collective payment claim, Create a new partial payment claim,



- if you are a PP, the system gives access to the following functions: Create a new partial payment claim
- 'Show Payment Claims' menu: This menu is only available for the LP. It allows switching between the list of collective and partial payment claims.
- Sorting and filtering panel by default, the panel collapses; when expanded, the user accesses the filtering criteria. The operation of the panel is described in more detail in the part of the guide concerning the Projects thematic area.
- You will only see the additional 'Show only my payment claims' checkbox when you are viewing the list of partial payment claims.

III CREATION OF A PARTIAL PAYMENT CLAIM

The first step in the settlement is partial payment claim. After the end of the reporting period or within the timeframe agreed in the partnership, the LP and PPs create partial payment claims and submit for verification by the Controller.

To create a new partial payment claim in the 'Management of payment claim' menu, select 'Create a partial payment claim'.

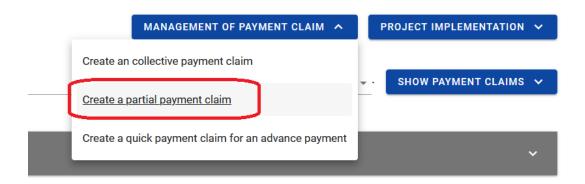


Figure 7. View of the 'Create a partial payment claim' screen

When you select the function to create a new partial payment claim, please indicate a type of payment claim.

You can choose the following types of payment claims:

- ▶ Payment claim for reimbursement if you are reporting reimbursable (expenditure "oversettlement" will be treated as a reimbursement),
- Reporting payment claim if you are not reporting any expenditure but are only reporting on the progress of the project,
- Final payment claim if you are submitting your final payment claim under the project.



If you create a payment claim for reimbursement the system will automatically mark such a payment claim as a 'reporting payment claim' as well.

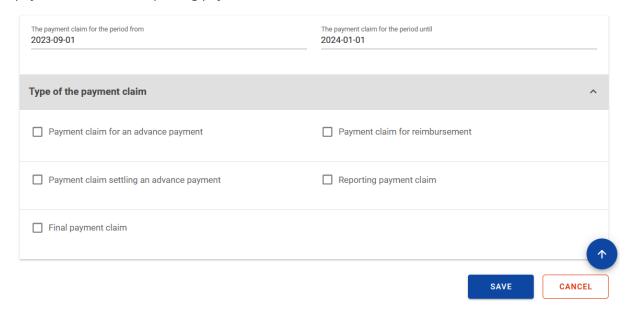


Figure 8. View of the screen for creating a payment claim

Note: Payment claims for an advanced payments visible above, are not applicable for Interreg South Balic Programme 2021-2027.

The period for a partial payment claim needs to be indicated. Based on the last partial payment claim, the system tells you the date to enter in the field 'The payment claim for the period from', but you can change this date. The reporting periods should be distinct, the system will prevent you from proceeding if there is any overlap in the dates. When determining the reporting period, follow the rules of the Programme.

Project implementation is divided into 2 cycles of 6-month reporting periods:

Cycle 1:

- from 1 January to 30 June;
- from 1 July to 31 December.

Cycle 2:

- from 1 April to 30 September;
- from 1 October to 31 March.

Reporting cycles will be applied in rolling order (1st Call – Cycle 2; 2nd Call – Cycle 1; 3rd Call – Cycle 2; etc.). Additionally, based on dedicated rules, small-scale projects have the following reporting cycles: 1st Small-scale project call – Cycle 2; 2nd Small-scale project call – Cycle 1.

Once you have selected the type of payment claim and indicated the period for which you want to create a partial payment claim, you save it in the system using the Save function.



Once the partial payment claim has been saved, you can proceed to fill the data in the individual blocks.

If the values in the fields violate the validation rules, the system, depending on the validation rule, either blocks the creation of the partial payment claim or presents a warning message asking the user to confirm whether the entered values are correct.

The created partial payment claim is given the status 'In preparation' and will remain so until you submit it to the Controller.

1 MANAGEMENT OF PAYMENT CLAIM MENU

It is possible to carry out various types of operations on a partial payment claim thanks to the drop-down Management of payment claim menu. Which operations are available in this menu depends primarily on the status of the partial payment claim (assessment stage) and your authorisations.

Functions available in the Management of payment claim menu:

- **Change period / type** this function takes you to the initial view of creating a partial payment claim,
- ▶ Sign the payment claim this function allows a partial payment claim to be signed with a qualified signature or, if a qualified signature is not available, with a SL2021 non-qualified signature,
- **Submit** this function transfers the signed partial payment claim to the relevant Controller,
- **Submit for signature** − this function transfers the payment claim for authorised person's signature,
- ▲ Correct this function creates a new, editable version of the partial payment claim. It will only be displayed if the Controller returns it to you for clarification,
- **Check for correctness** allows you to check the correctness of the data entered,
- **Delete** function available for a partial payment claim that has not yet been submitted to the Controller,
- ▶ Update data function available when project data has changed need to be checked and clicked before submitting payment claim,
- List of payment claim versions this function takes you to the list of the partial payment claim's versions, where you can view the version in question as well as export it to a PDF file.

2 DATA BLOCKS IN THE PARTIAL PAYMENT CLAIM

The data in the partial payment claim is divided into blocks between which you can move. The availability of data blocks depends on the type of partial payment claim.

There is the option of editing individual blocks. The application automatically fills in the selected fields based on the project data - you do not edit this data.

When saving the data in individual data blocks, the system checks the correctness of the data and displays appropriate messages.





You can edit a partial payment claim until it is signed.

Both the individual blocks on the payment claim and the data initially specified when creating the payment claim can be edited:

- Type of partial payment claim,
- Reporting period.

A change in the type of partial payment claim may result in:

- clearing and hiding some of the fields on the payment claim- this applies to fields that are not covered by the newly selected type of partial payment claim,
- new fields to be filled in on the payment claim,
- leaving the fields common to the old and new types of partial payment claim unchanged.

Once a partial payment claim has been signed, it is not possible to modify the payment claim. Editing is blocked after the first signature.

2.1 Data block 'Project information'

For this data block, the list of available elements depends on the type of partial payment claim.

2.1.1 Data block 'Project information - payment claim for reimbursement'



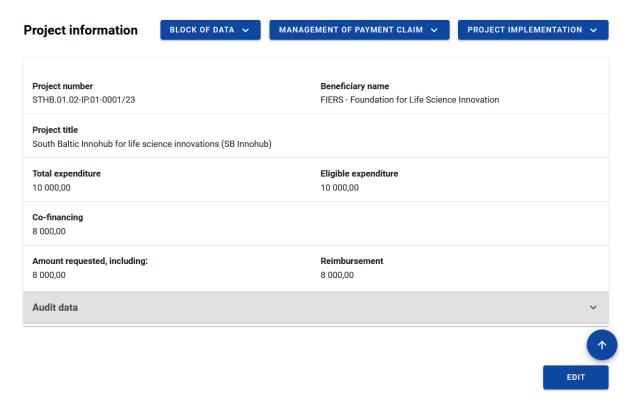


Figure 9. View of a payment claim for reimbursement - Project information

The Project Information block for a payment claim for reimbursement consists of the following elements:

- Project number field filled in by the system,
- **Beneficiary name** field filled in by the system with the name of PP,
- Project title field filled in by the system,
- ▶ Total expenditure field initiated by the system based on data entered in the following blocks,
- **Ligible expenditure** field filled in by the system based on data entered in the following blocks
- **Co-financing** field filled in by the system based on data entered in the following blocks,
- Amount requested, including field filled in by the system based on data entered in the following blocks,
- Reimbursement editable field in which to specify the amount of the reimbursement claimed,
 - Before submitting the payment claim the partner should make sure that the numbers between cells **Eligible expenditure**, **Co-financing**, **Amount requested**, **including**, **Reimbursement** correspond to the numbers in "Sources of financing".
- Audit data field filled in by the system.



Project information BLOCK OF DATA MANAGEMENT OF PAYMENT CLAIM Project number STHB.01.02-IP.01-0001/23 Beneficiary name Smile Incubator Project title South Baltic Innohub for life science innovations (SB Innohub)

2.1.2 Data block Project information - reporting payment claim

Figure 10. View of a reporting payment claim - Project information

The Project Information block for a reporting payment claim consists of the following elements:

- Project number field filled in by the system,
- **Beneficiary name** field filled in by the system with the name of PP,
- Project title field filled in by the system,
- Audit data field filled in by the system.

2.2 Data block 'Physical progress'

The data block looks identical for each type of partial payment claim.

The block shows the work packages of the project with a description of progress. Describe the status of each task here, refer to all activities in SAF - add the number of activities and describe what has been done. If the implementation of the task contributes to the achievement of the indicators and deliverables set out in the project, this should be clearly indicated, the actions taken described and documented (reports, toolboxes, manuals, participants list attached to the "Attachments section" named as e.g. "D2.1 the name of the deliverable in English"). Refer to the communication plan in the "Management and coordination" block when describing general promotion or in the certain Work Package if it refers to the content of the project.

In the Work Package "Indirect costs" implementation of the SCOs should be described. For both 'Office and Administration' and 'Travel and Accommodation' it is enough to put a sentence that the costs are confirmed. Additionally, for Travel and Accommodation you should document that you have made at least one business trip during the project life cycle according to the provision of the Programme Manual.

In collective payment claim the LP needs to rewrite description for the whole project, combining what is automatically imported from partial payment claims.

Once you have proceeded to modify individual items using the 'edit' button, in addition to basic functions such as saving or cancelling the changes made, it is possible to expand individual items in the list and filter the task list.



In addition, an obligatory for Interreg South Baltic 2021-2027 fields are available for completion:

- Problems encountered during project verification,
- Planned course on project implementation.

Briefly describe any problems encountered in the implementation of the project during the period covered by the payment claim in question. Any deviation from the original work plan in the application form should be reported in this section. In addition, describe the tasks you planned to carry out but did not complete during the period, including the reasons why you abandoned them or why you were unable to complete them. These fields should be also rewrited - combined what is automatically imported from partial payment claims.

If this is your final payment claim and you have not achieved or exceeded the indicators indicated in the project payment claim, state and describe the reasons why this occurred.

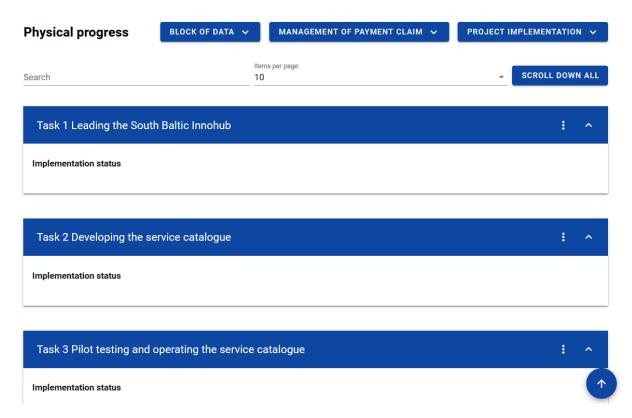


Figure 11. Data block Physical progress





2.3 Data block 'Indicators'

Note:

It is recommended to agree inside the partnership on the method of reporting indicators in payment claims and follow the same method throughout the whole project. It is sufficient to report indicators in collective payment claims only on project level. This can be done either by expressing them as a percentage of completion based on the delivery stage or by providing the total number of indicators delivered. Each time outputs are reported, it is essential to document proof in the "Attachments section," labelled appropriately, for example, as "Output1 [name of the output in English]."

The data block looks identical for each type of partial payment claim.

The block shows a list of indicators according to the project data registered in SL2021. Indicators are divided into output and result indicators.

The visible sections are:

- ▶ The name of the output indicator is divided into: Target value, Value achieved in the reporting period, Value achieved since the beginning of the project implementation, Degree of implementation.
- Name of outcome indicator by: Baseline value, Target value, Value achieved in the reporting period, Value achieved since the beginning of the project implementation, Degree of implementation.

In the Interreg South Baltic projects there is no need to monitor breakdown by gender thus the option "No" should be chosen.

You can go on to edit individual items in the list of indicators using the Edit button and enter the values achieved in the reporting period for which the partial payment claim is submitted. You also have the option to change the value cumulatively, e.g. when an error crept in previous partial payment claims and the wrong indicator value was reported.

In addition to basic functions such as saving or cancelling your changes, you can also expand individual items in the list and filter the list of indicators.



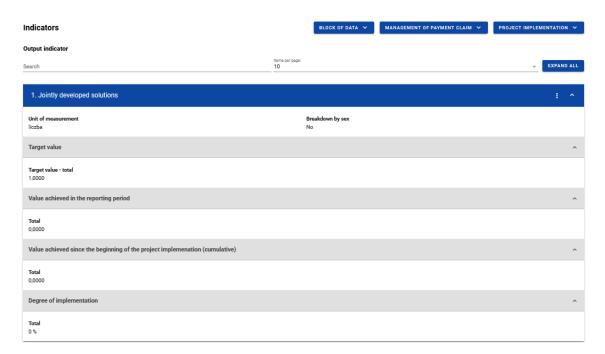


Figure 12. Data block Indicators

2.4 Data block 'List of documents'

The data block appears only in the case of payment claim for reimbursement.

During the implementation of the project, it is very important to systematically collect information on the documents confirming the expenditure incurred, submitted for verification at the request of the Controller.

In the 'List of documents', present invoices (or other documents of equivalent evidentiary value) paid in full that document eligible expenditure incurred during the period covered by the payment claim concerned. If you intend to submit expenditure from periods covered by previous partial payment claims, add a note to this effect in the 'Notes' field. The period of the payment claim in such a case remains unchanged, there is no need to extend it.

If, during the verification of your previous partial payment claim, the Controller has identified irregular expenditure and excluded it in whole or in part from that claim, but you have made a complaint and it has been accepted, you have the option of resubmitting this expenditure in a subsequent partial payment claim. Such expenditure should be shown in the last rows of the table with an appropriate note in the 'Note' field.

If the Controller has excluded only part of the expenditure or only some of the items of the invoice in question and these have been ultimately found to be correct (as a result of your complaint being granted) then only enter the values corresponding to the previously questioned parts of the expenditure in the next payment claim.



From the List of documents block, you have the option to:

- Show a selected list item.
- Add new items to the list of documents.
- ▶ Delete selected items from the list of documents.
- Import a list of documents item from xlsx file.
- Export the list of documents to xlsx file.

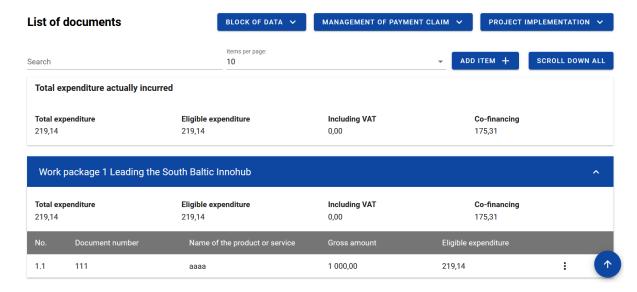


Figure 13. View of the List of documents list

2.4.1 Rules for completing the 'List of documents' in the system

To start filling in the List of documents, select the option



A window where you can enter information about the document will appear:

Work package - select from the list the work package under which you are settling the expenditure in question.

Document type - select from the list the type of document confirming the expenditure incurred.

Document number - enter the number of the document confirming the expenditure incurred, assigned by the issuer of this document.

Accounting or record number - enter the document number from your accounting or bookkeeping records.

Issuer ID type - select from the list the type of issuer identification number of the document supporting the expenditure incurred.

Issuer identification number - enter the number according to the previously selected Issuer identification number.



TIN - applies to Polish entities - if the issuer is a business entity, enter the NIP [tax identification] number of the issuer of the document whose number is specified in the field Document number;

PESEL - applies to Polish citizens, if the issuer of the document is a private individual who does not carry out business activity, enter his/her PESEL number;

Other number - applies to foreign entities (outside Poland) - if the issuer of the document is a foreign entity, enter its identification number - you can fill in up to 25 characters;

Not applicable - you do not complete anything, the field in this case is blocked for editing.

In the case of TIN and PESEL values, the system will make sure you do not make a mistake and will check the correctness of the data entered.

Date of document issue - enter the date of issue of the document confirming the expenditure incurred in the format YYYY-MM-DD or select it from the calendar.

Date of payment / date range - enter the date of payment of the document confirming the expenditure incurred in the format YYYY-MM-DD or select it from the calendar. If the document has been paid in several instalments, add the following payment date.

The date of the payment has to be within the reporting period except a final payment claim where payments can be made after project end date for invoices issued during the project duration.

Gross document amount - enter the gross amount of the entire document, even if you are only accounting for parts of the expenditure within the task/project or some items e.g. from an invoice. The amount should be stated in the currency in which the expenditure was incurred.

Net document amount - enter the net amount of the entire document, even if you are only accounting for parts of the expenditure within the task/project or some items e.g. from an invoice. The amount should be stated in the national currency in which the expenditure was incurred.

Correcting invoice - select this field if the recorded document corrects another document that is being settled in the prepared List of documents. The correcting invoice should be added directly below it. If the corrected invoice relates to a document shown in an earlier payment claim, it should not be shown in the current claim. If this is the case, inform the Controller and provide it with a corrected invoice.

Contract number - if the expenditure was incurred under a public procurement contract and you have registered information about this contract and the contracts concluded in the system, indicate in this field the number of the contract with the contractor registered in the system.

Name of the product or service - enter in this field the name of the product or service to which the recorded document relates. If the expenditure relates to one type of product, constitutes eligible expenditure and all invoice items are subject to the same VAT rate, you can give a collective name without transcribing all the invoice items. Where there are different rates within a single accounting document, group the items from the document by VAT rate and enter each group on a separate line, while the data entered under 'Document number', 'Date of document issue' and 'Date of



payment' will contain the same information on all lines relating to the accounting document in question.

Each cost item should be described in a way that makes it possible to verify its nature and relevance to the project. Therefore, descriptions of costs should be consistent throughout the project (same description structure) and should include the following elements: nature of costs (e.g. travel to ..., purchase of ..., salaries for ...), subject (who/what they relate to, e.g. the name of a staff member, the name of product/service), purpose (e.g. to carry out analysis of xyz, to attend an event ...), and in the case of travel of external experts or meeting costs also location and date eg. "Staff costs Name Surname July-December 2016" or "Travel for Name Surname (external expert) by train Kalmar-Emmaboda in connection to project kick-off meeting 20-21 September 2016".

Notes - in this field you can enter additional descriptive information and explanations concerning a particular document shown on the list of documents. This will allow a more efficient evaluation of the partial payment claim. In the box you should include information such as:

- A relevant explanation if you have made a system-initiated change to the co-financing value.
- The amount by which you have reduced eligible expenditure, if you have made such a reduction yourself.
- In the case of a correcting invoice, information on the number of the document to which the correction relates, including the number of the partial payment claim in which the document has been settled.
- Indication of whether the expenditure was incurred under the principle of competitiveness (also specifying the number of the notice in the Competitiveness Database applied for beneficiaries from Poland).
- Allocation of amounts of eligible expenditure and VAT broken down by VAT rate,
- Indication of whether the expenditure in question was resubmitted for reimbursement in whole or in part after your complaint had been granted.
- Indication of the exchange rate used to convert expenditure incurred in a currency other than the euro into euro (on the first line of the list of documents).
- If you are settling closing costs on a lump sum basis and, in addition, you are submitting invoices for the execution phase for settlement, be sure to include this information.
- If during the reporting period you granted indirect aid (in accordance with Article 20a of Commission Regulation (EU) 651/2014), when completing the list of documents in the payment claim, complete the 'Notes' field for the expenditures that relate to this aid. In the 'Notes' field enter "Interreg 20a" and the amount of indirect aid granted.



Budget item - select from the list the item in your budget under which you are accounting for the expenditure.



Total expenditure - enter in this field the amount of expenditure, including both eligible and ineligible expenditure, corresponding to the previously selected budget item. Remember that if only some of the items in the document relate to the implemented project (e.g. the invoice includes also goods not covered by the project or the same accounting document is submitted for settlement in more than one project), then the total amount of the expenditure should correspond only to the part of the expenditure that concerns the project you are settling. In such cases, it is incorrect to enter the total expenditure amount equal to the gross document amount. **The amount**

Eligible expenditure - in this field, enter only the amount of eligible expenditure (including VAT if it is an eligible cost) that is settled by the given payment claim, i.e. the amount which corresponds to the previously selected value in the Cost item field. **The amount should be specified in euro.**

Including VAT - in this field, state the amount of VAT relating only to the **eligible** expenditure you have shown in the previous field and if the VAT itself is an eligible cost. If VAT is ineligible, leave the default value '0.00'. Remember to calculate the VAT value correctly. If you are accounting for the entire value of a document (e.g. a whole invoice) within a payment claim, the VAT value should be equal to the difference between the Gross document amount and the Net document amount. **The amount should be specified in euro**.

Co-financing - the value in this field is suggested by the system on the basis of the previously entered value of eligible expenditure and the level of co-financing applicable to the budget item indicated. The amount is rounded down according to mathematical rules. You can edit it, particularly in the case of a final payment claim, when the value calculated by the system causes the project to exceed its co-financing value. Therefore, we recommend using the xlsx file and calculating the co-financing in accordance with the formula provided later in the manual. **The amount should be specified in euro**.

Attachments - in this section by clicking on the icon you can go to the list of attachments in the project, add a new attachment or link an attachment defined earlier to the document. A description of how to add and attach attachments is included in the project management manual.

2.4.2 Rules for completing the List of documents in the expenditure file

You can also add positions of the List of documents using a template (xlsx file), which can be exported from the level of the list of documents for a partial payment claim. Once you have completed the file, you can import it into the payment claim.

should be specified in euro.

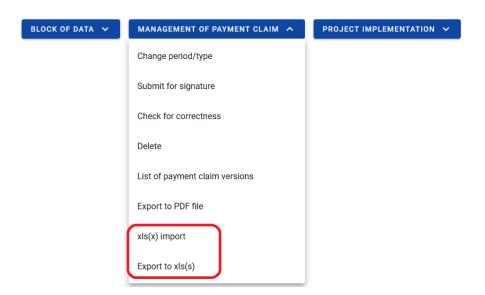


Figure 14. View of the Management of payment claim menu - File import and export

Amounts in a partial payment claim must be filled in in euro. If the expenditure was incurred in EUR, simply enter the value of that expenditure in the same amount in the List of documents. If your expenditure was incurred in other currencies, it must be converted into EUR at the exchange rate applied by the EC in the month in which the expenditure is submitted to the Controller for verification. For this reason, and in order to avoid later doubts during the verification of your partial payment claim, the List of documents shall be filled in by you in an xlsx file, according to the guidelines described below. This is the mandatory method for entering information about the supporting documents for the expenditure incurred. You will be able to add further items to the List of documents on an ongoing basis during the reporting period, and then import the entire List of documents into the system in one go when preparing a partial payment claim.

Note:

- Remember to export the template from the newly created partial payment claim each time. The data in your project's budget will change over the course of the project, which may affect either the names of budget items or the names of partners. Therefore, always work on the current template and not the one used previously.
- The structure of this file must not be modified, as this will prevent the List of documents from being imported back into the system without problems. It will be good practice if you enter one item in the List of documents manually and then export the file. In this way, you will know how to complete the file, the logic behind marking certain fields, etc.
- It is recommended to verify the import-export option prior to submitting data for the complete lists of documents (to prevent possible technical inconsistencies).



The file contains 1 tab divided into 3 parts where you enter information about documents, budget items and attachments

Documents (column A-R)

In these columns, you provide information about the document confirming the incurred expenditure settled for in the partial payment claim. When filling in the subsequent lines of the List of documents, follow the instructions in the previous section (individual fields may appear in a slightly different order than in the system).

In the xlsx file, in the Documents tab, there is additionally an 'No.' column, indicating the ordinal number of items in the List of documents. Complete it manually.

Note:

- ▶ The ordinal number must have the following structure: "[Work package no.].[consecutive no.]" e.g. 2.1, 4.3, etc. The Work package number in the ordinal number must match the number shown in column A 'Work package number'.
- ▶ The ordinal number must be unique, there cannot be two rows with the same ordinal number.

Budget items (column S-X)

In these columns, you will make the link between documents and specific items in your project budget and indicate the expenditure values. When entering expenditure and co-financing data, follow the instructions in the previous section on completing data directly in the system (individual fields may appear in a slightly different order than in the system).

If you want to settle one document (invoice, payroll, etc.) for several budget items in a work package, you only need to provide the data for this document once. In the following lines, provide only the work package number (column A) and fill in columns S to X. Filling out the columns regarding attachments is optional, depending on whether you want to combine more attachments to the document.

In the xlsx file, there is also a column "Project partner", which does not have to be completed at the partial payment claim stage.

Attachments (Y-AB)

In these column, you will indicate the files to be linked to the specific document. For this purpose:

- 1. Create a folder in which you will collect all the attachments to the List of documents.
- 2. Prepare all attachments that should be attached to the documents in the List of documents (e.g. scans) and save them in the folder created in point 1,
- 3. Save the xlsx file with the List of documents (exported from the system) to this folder as well,
- "Attachment name" column: Specify the name of the attachment you intend to attach to the document (it should be the name of the attachment file without extension, e.g. "Payroll_November_2022"),



- 5. "File name" column: enter the name of the attachment file (including extension) to be attached to the document, e.g. "Payroll_November_2022.pdf",
- 6. "Available to partners" column: Decide whether it should be accessible by other partners (i.e. visible to them),
- 7. "Type" column: Select 'Document Type' from the list.

When importing a file into a partial payment claim, the system will verify the correctness of the data and, if an error is detected, display a message containing the cell number and a description of the error. This makes it easy to identify the List of documents item requiring correction.

If you have filled in the 'Attachments' tab in the imported file, the system will display the following message:

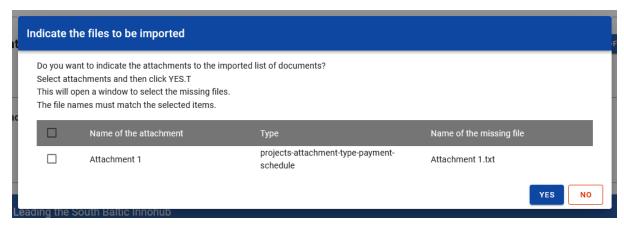


Figure 15. View of the window indicating the attachments to be imported

Indicate the files you wish to attach by ticking the boxes next to their names and then click YES.

The system will open a Windows Explorer window for you to point to the files on your computer yourself. Point to the folder you created according to our instructions. Select all the files that you intend to attach to the List of documents and that have been defined in the 'Attachments' tab of the imported List of documents.

Note:

When the system has finished importing the data, make sure that the attachments have been added to the items in the List of documents. To do this, go to the view of the relevant item in the list of documents, switch to view or edit mode and see if the Attachments block is filled in. If not, repeat the import of the list of documents and ensure that you have selected all the files to be imported.

2.4.3 Conversion of 'List of documents' into EUR

If the list of documents has been completed in national currency, you should convert it into EUR at the exchange rate of the month in which the payment claim is submitted to the Controller.



Note:

If your payment claim shows expenditure that were reinstated after your complaint was approved, apply the exchange rate that was used in the payment claim in which you originally reported the expenditure.

To convert the expenditure:

1. Select the entire sheet and press Ctrl+c.

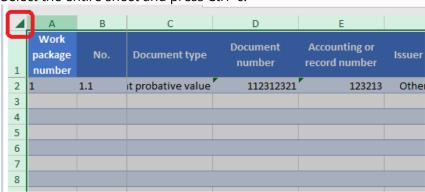


Figure 16. Preparing a List of documents in xlsx - selecting a sheet

- 2. Add a new sheet
- 3. Select the sheet as in point 1 and press Ctrl+v.
- 4. Name it "National Currency" this is important, otherwise the formulas defined below in point 6 will not work.
- 5. In cell AD1, enter the rate you will use to convert your expenditure.
- 6. Return to the Documents tab and then in second row in the table enter formulas as follows:
 - a. enter the following formula in cell T2:
 - =ZAOKR('National currency'!T2/'National currency'!\$AD\$1;2) for PL version of Excel
 - =AVRUNDA('National currency'!T2/'National currency'!\$AD\$1;2) for SE version of Excel
 - =AFRUND('National currency'!T2/'National currency'!\$AD\$1;2) for DK version of Excel
 - =RUNDEN('National currency'!T2/'National currency'!\$AD\$1;2) for DE version of
 - =ROUND('National currency'!T2/'National currency'!\$AD\$1,2) for LT and EN version of Excel
 - b. enter the following formula in cell U2:
 - =ZAOKR('National currency'!U2/'National currency'!\$AD\$1;2) for PL version of Excel
 - =AVRUNDA('National currency'!U2/'National currency'!\$AD\$1;2) for SE version of Excel
 - =AFRUND('National currency'!U2/'National currency'!\$AD\$1;2) for DK version of Excel



- =RUNDEN('National currency'!U2/'National currency'!\$AD\$1;2) for DE version of Excel
- =ROUND('National currency'!U2/'National currency'!\$AD\$1,2) for LT and EN version of Excel
- c. enter the following formula in cell V2:
 - =ZAOKR('National currency'!V2/'National currency'!\$AD\$1;2) for PL version of Excel
 - =AVRUNDA('National currency'!V2/'National currency'!\$AD\$1;2) for SE version of Excel
 - =AFRUND('National currency'!V2/'National currency'!\$AD\$1;2) for DK version of Excel
 - =RUNDEN('National currency'!V2/'National currency'!\$AD\$1;2) for DE version of Excel
 - =ROUND('National currency'!V2/'National currency'!\$AD\$1,2) for LT and EN version of Excel
- d. enter the following formula in cell W2:
 - =ZAOKR.DÓŁ(U2*80%;2) for PL version of Excel
 - =AVRUNDA.NEDÅT(U2*80%;2) for SE version of Excel
 - =RUND.NED(U2*80%;2) for DK version of Excel
 - =ABRUNDEN(U2*80%;2) for DE version of Excel
 - =ROUNDDOWN(U2*80%,2) for EN and LT version of Excel
- 7. Copy the formulas from line 2 to the subsequent lines in the Documents tab. You can do this by selecting all these cells together and dragging them down:

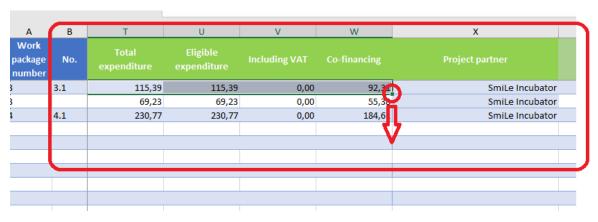


Figure 17. Preparing a list of documents in xlsx - copying formulas

8. If multiple exchange rates are used (e.g. in the event of reinstatement of expenditure following a positive resolution of the complaint), enter them in the "National currency" tab in cells AE1, AF1, etc. and modify the formulas for the expenditure for which these rates should be applied accordingly.



Note:

Be sure to attach the completed file you used to import the items to the List of documents to the payment claim. The Controller checks the completion and whether the expenditure has been correctly converted at the correct EUR exchange rate during the verification of the partial payment claim.

2.5 Data block 'Simplified cost options'

This block presents all SCO items resulting from your Project budget, divided by Task.

Types of SCOs:

- Flat rate,
- Lump sum.

To ensure that the amounts shown in the payment claim are correctly calculated, first complete the **List of documents** block, especially if the calculation of any of the flat rates is based on actual expenditure.

You can view or edit a selected item from the list.

2.5.1 Flat rate

The system does not automatically calculate flat rate values. You must calculate them yourself on the basis of the expenditure which forms the basis for calculating the flat rate in question.

The Managing Authority has prepared an auxiliary calculator for calculating flat rates as an xlsx file, which you can download from the Programme website. Fill in the calculated values to the payment claim form.



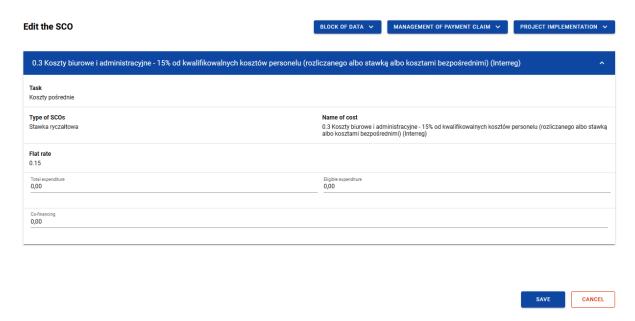


Figure 18. Edit the SCO view for flat rate

2.5.2 Lump sum

The system does not automatically fill in the lump sum values. You must calculate them yourself and provide information on the achievement rate of the lump sum concerned, in accordance with the Programme rules.

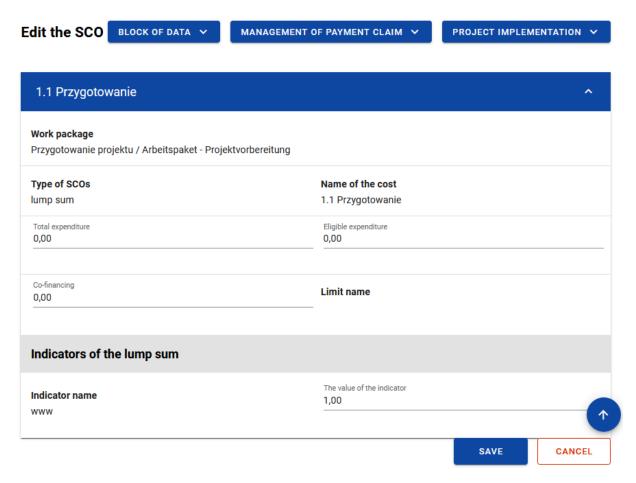


Figure 19. Edit the SCO view for lump sum

2.6 Data block 'Sources of financing'

The block presents expenditure divided by source of financing, with an additional breakdown between general and eligible expenditure. You must indicate the sources the expenditure covered by the payment claim will be financed from.

Note:

- The values in the Total own contribution and Total fields are calculated automatically by the system.
- **▲** The value of Co-financing and Including EU should be identical in both columns.
- If there is a difference between total and eligible expenditure in a payment claim, you must indicate from which own sources this difference has been financed.
- The sum of total expenditure, eligible expenditure and co-financing must be equal to the amounts of the respective expenditure in the Project Information block as well as in the Summary section.



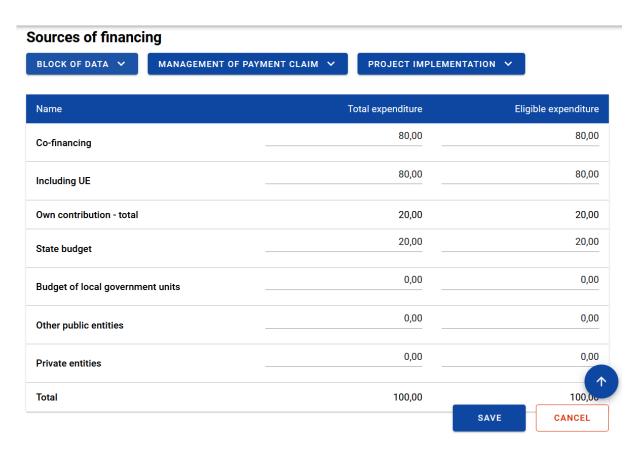


Figure 20. View of Sources of expenditure funding block - edit mode

2.7 Data block 'Reimbursement / Corrections'

This data block is used to correct information that was incorrectly reported in earlier partial payment claims, when, for example, an expenditure was reported under the wrong budget item.

Note:

- ▶ Do not complete this block to re-qualify previously questioned expenditure.
- If irregular expenditure has been identified in your part of the project, but there will be an opportunity to reuse funds in the project, the relevant institution will notify you and instruct you on how to correct the cumulative values in the financial List of documents of the project.

Registering a correction consists of indicating the budget items from the previously approved payment claim(s) and then entering the amounts for the relevant items. The amount entered (with a "-" or "+" sign) is intended to indicate the value by which the budget item changes.

If you need to reduce expenditure cumulatively, record the amounts with a "-" so that you can report new expenditure in the project.



The following fields are visible for each item in the list:

- Number of the payment claim under which the expenditure was settled,
- Work package,
- Cost Category Name of cost / SCO,
- Document number (optional field),
- Total expenditure,
- Eligible expenditure,
- Co-financing
- ▲ Comments (optional field) nevertheless provide information on the reason for the correction.

For each return/correction, you can add a category subject to limits using the Add Limit Category function. You indicate the following values for each added limit category:

- Category subject to limits,
- Total expenditure within the limit,
- Ligible expenditure within the limit,
- Co-financing within the limit.

You have the option to edit individual items in the list, collapse/expand individual or all returns/corrections and filter the list.

To add a new item to the list, select the 'Add Return/Correction' button.

You can also delete or edit an already existing category subject to limits.

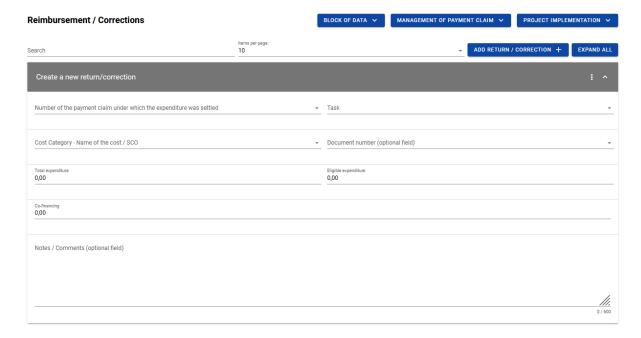


Figure 21. Creation of a new reimbursement/correction





When the Edit function is selected, the fields on the screen become editable and additional buttons appear, located in the bottom right-hand corner of the screen:

- **Save** results in saving the changes made,
- **Cancel** results in ending the editing process without saving the changes made.

2.8 Data block 'Income'

Leave the fields in this block blank as income is not monitored in Interreg South Baltic 2021-2027 projects.

2.9 Data block 'Statements'

The block presents sections that can be edited using the **Edit** button at the bottom of the page.

The visible sections are:

- ↑ The Community policies' with an option to indicate whether the Project is being carried out in accordance with the principles of Community Policies and with a field for clarifications (text box) if compliance with the said principles is not confirmed.
- ↑ 'Statement' where you will see the fixed content of the statement you submit together with the partial payment claim, and a text box in which you describe where the records are kept. The physical address needs to be provided. If the PP does not provide in the partial payment claim, then it is the responsibility of the LP to check in the collective one and insert the address before submitting the payment claim. In case of the documents being stored on the server the address of the server should be entered.



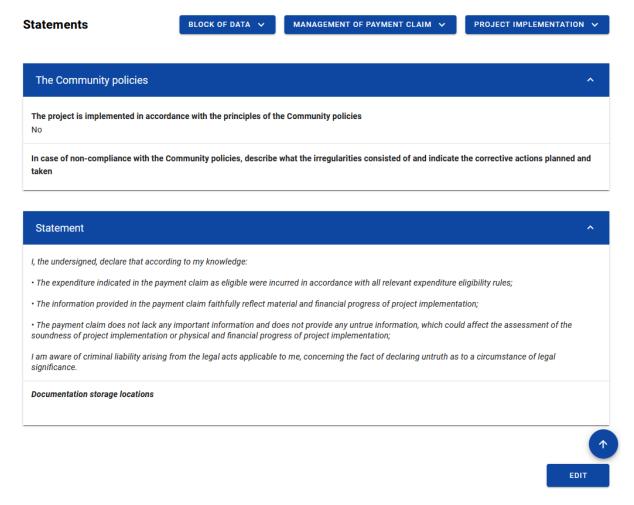


Figure 22. View of the Statement block - edit mode

2.10 Data block 'Summary'

The block presents a breakdown of expenditure as follows (from left):

- Current expenditure (additionally broken down into: Total, Eligible, Co-financing)
- Expenditure to date (additionally broken down by: Total, Eligible, Co-financing)
- Expenditure in the project (further broken down into: Total, Eligible, Co-financing)
- Completion percentage

In addition, the Summary lists expenditure under the following categories:

- Tasks and budget items per Work package
- Cost categories
- Limits

You cannot edit any amounts on the block - the system calculates everything automatically.



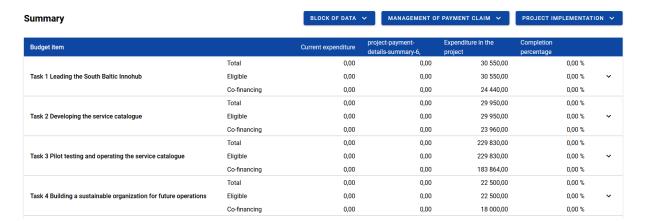


Figure 23. View of the Summary block

2.11 Data block 'List of attachments to the project'

In the List of attachments to the project block, you add attachments to the partial payment claim.

Note:

- ▶ The Partnership Agreement must be included with the first payment claim or, in the event of introducing a new Project Partner, with the subsequent payment claim prior to their addition.
- Indicate the title of added files in English, clearly showing what the attachment concerns to facilitate verification of it, e.g. 'Partnership Agreement'.

To add a completely new attachment to your payment claim, use the 'Addition of attachment' function. To link an attachment already entered into the system as part of a project, use the 'Attach an attachment' function. These are available in the list of actions under the three dots.



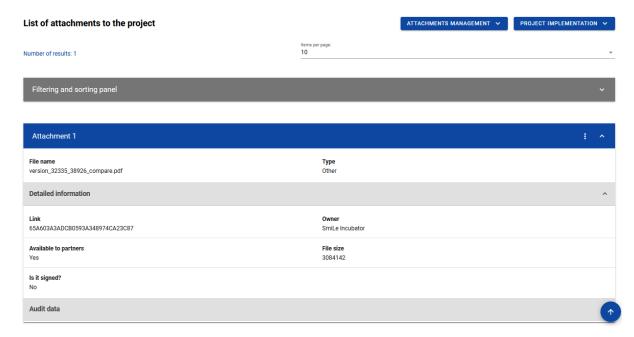


Figure 24. View of the Attachment block

The 'Addition of attachment' function takes you to a screen allowing you to manually enter an attachment name and attachment type. In addition, you specify whether you share the file with PP or not.



Figure 25. View of adding a new attachment

The 'Attach an attachment' function takes you to a screen with a list of attachments already existing in the project. Check the boxes next to those files you are attaching to the payment claim and confirm with 'Save'. Files already linked to the payment claim have checkboxes ticked.

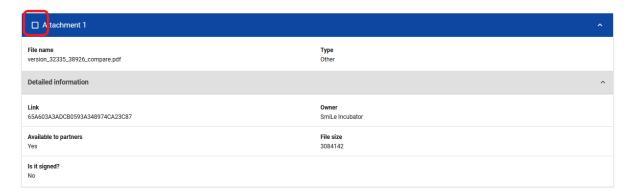


Figure 26. View of attaching an existing attachment

Added attachments can be downloaded to your disk. You can also detach them from the partial payment claim.

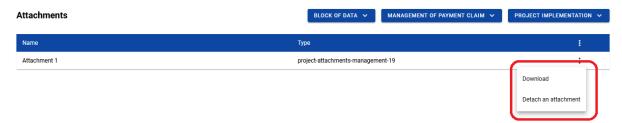


Figure 27. View of functions available for an attachment in the Attachment List

The following data is presented for an attachment that has already been added:

- Name of the attachment
- Type

3 VERIFICATION OF THE CORRECTNESS OF A PARTIAL PAYMENT CLAIM

You can check at any time what data in your partial payment claim still needs to be corrected using the **Check for correctness** function.

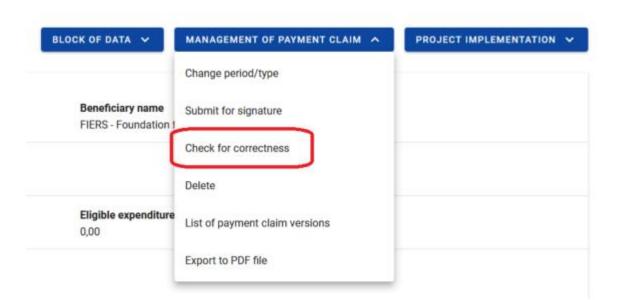


Figure 28. View of the Check for correctness function

Note: Updating data

- ▶ Each time you enter a payment claim, the system checks whether the project data has changed. If there have been changes to the project that affect your payment claim, a message will notify you of the need to Update data.
- To Update data, go to "Management of payment claim" menu and click "Update data" option.
- Before submitting the payment claim, we recommend to verify if the payment claim is connected to the current version of the project. To do it, go to "Management of payment claim" menu and check if there is "Update data" option. If yes, click it for connection the payment claim to the current version of the project.

At the stage of filling in data, the system displays the following validation messages next to the fields:

- Warnings i.e. messages that do not block you from submitting a partial payment claim, they just require you to confirm that the data you enter is correct.
- ▶ Blocks i.e. messages that block you from submitting a partial payment claim to the Controller until you correct the data.

The function is not available on cancelled payment claims.

Selecting the **Check for correctness** function results in:

a message being displayed stating that the partial payment claim has been filled in correctly



or

a screen being shown with messages indicating the fields filled in incorrectly, also allowing to navigate to an error specified by the system.

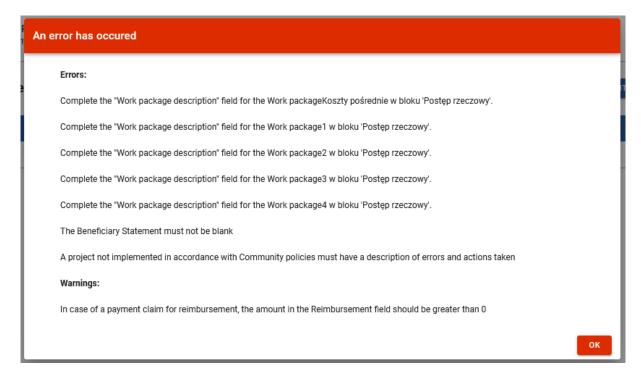


Figure 29. View of validation messages when checking a payment claim for correctness

IV COLLECTIVE PAYMENT CLAIMS

Interreg projects are settled by means of partial payment claims and collective payment claims. Partial payment claims are prepared first and once approved by the Controller, the LP prepares a collective payment claim.

The collective payment claim is identical to the partial payment claim form.

To create a new collective payment claim in the 'Management of payment claim' menu, select 'Create a collective payment claim'.



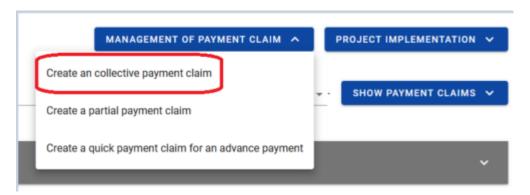


Figure 30. View of the "Create a collective payment claim" screen

When you select the function to create a new collective payment claim, please indicate which type of payment claim you wish to create and for what period.

The next step when creating a collective payment claim is to indicate the partial payment claims on the basis of which you will create the collective payment claim. The system will display a list of available partial payment claims whose type and reporting period corresponds to (includes) the collective payment claim you are creating.

Note:

- If you want partial payment claims covering earlier reporting periods to be included in the collective payment claim (e.g. one of the partners failed to report in the previous reporting period and then submitted a payment claim for 2 periods) first you must extend the date range in the Payment claim for the period from ... until... accordingly. Secondly include the respective partial payment claim. Finally after the given earlier partial payment claim is included change back the reporting period of the collective payment claim to the correct one for the given reporting period for the collective payment claim.
- Ensure that the list of partial payment claims contains all the payment claims that should be included in the creation of the collective payment claim for the reporting period.
- Creating a collective payment claim consists in drawing data from the partial payment claims. As LP, you have the possibility to edit the data in the collective payment claim. You can make changes to the description blocks, but do not make any changes to the blocks containing expenditure information!
- If you detect an error/irregularity in the data carried over from the approved partial payment claims (and not detected by the Controller in charge) when filling in the collective payment claim, please contact the Substantive Administrator in the Joint Secretariat. This is because it may be necessary to amend the data in the approved partial payment claim and re-create the collective payment claim.



In the description fields of the collective payment claim, the system will carry over the content entered by the PP in the partial payment claims, where this content is preceded by the name of the PP. Such system-initiated content will require correction on your part. When preparing the collective payment claim, follow the requirements set out in the applicable Programme Manual. It will include guidelines on how to describe the progress of tasks so that they relate to the project. The descriptive parts have to be edited by LP for the whole project description. The LP is responsible for the joint payment claim in the name of the project.

If the number of characters allowed in the system for a field is insufficient, include the full description in a separate file and attach it to the collective payment claim.

V DELETING A PAYMENT CLAIM

The chapter applies to each type of payment claim (partial, collective).

Any payment claim can be deleted if it has the In preparation status. If the payment claim is amended by you (i.e. you have created a new version of the payment claim), you can delete only this version.

To delete a payment claim, use the Delete function in the 'Management of payment claim' menu.

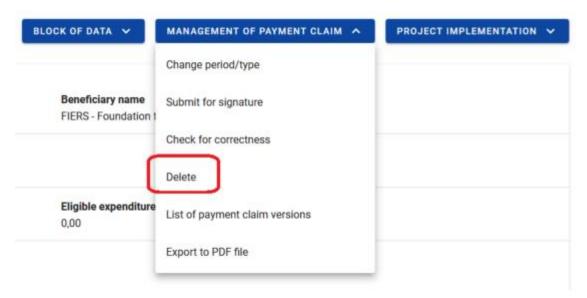


Figure 31. View of the Delete function



Note:

Once a payment claim has been submitted, deletion is not possible.

VI SUBMITTING THE PAYMENT CLAIM FOR SIGNATURE

The chapter applies to each type of payment claim (partial, collective).

If the payment claim is correctly completed and ready to be sent, you can submit it for signature. To do this, select Submit for signature from the 'Management of payment claim' menu.

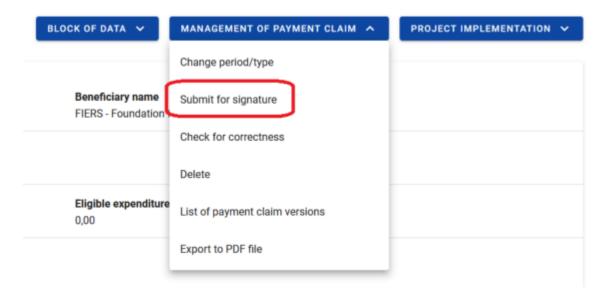


Figure 32. View of the submitting the payment claim for signature window

A window for indicating signatory will then appear. The list will contain the users registered under Project Partner account, authorised to sign the payment claim. When performing this action, you must also add a comment.

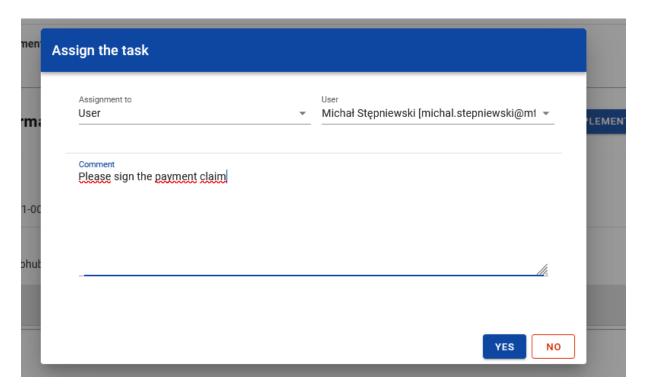


Figure 33. View of the window on how to assign the task of signing the payment claim

VII SIGNING THE PAYMENT CLAIM

The chapter applies to each type of payment claim (partial, collective).

The person assigned the task of signing the payment claim should go to preview the payment claim mode or edit it if they intend to change something in the payment claim before signing.

The signing the payment claim function is available via the drop-down list in the 'Management of payment claim' menu.



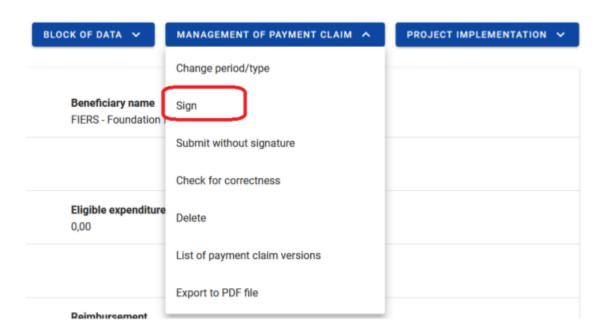


Figure 34. View of signing the payment claim window

There are 2 signature options available:

- Qualified certificate and PKI infrastructure signature in XADES format,
- Non-qualified signature available when a qualified signature is not possible or the user represents a non-Polish entity (the system sends an authorisation code to the user's email address, which must be entered in the 'confirmation of the one-time code' window).



Figure 35. View of the window on how to sign the payment claim

If you choose to sign the payment claim with a non-qualified signature, the following window will appear and an authorisation code will be sent to your email address. Transcribe or paste the code into the box and click OK.



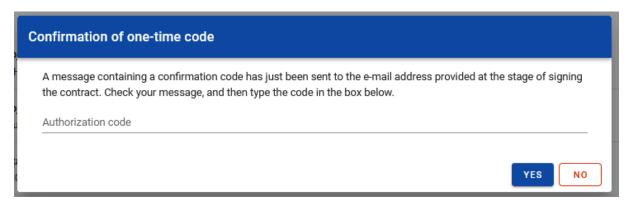


Figure 36. View for the non-qualified signature - authorisation code

If the qualified signature option is selected, follow the on-screen messages. When signing in the system, the identity of the person logged in is verified against the signatory's details. A successfully signed payment claim cannot be modified.

VIII SUBMITTING THE PAYMENT CLAIM

The chapter applies to each type of payment claim (partial, collective).

Once you have signed the payment claim, the system will ask you whether the payment claim should be passed on to another person for signature or submitted to the institution straight away.

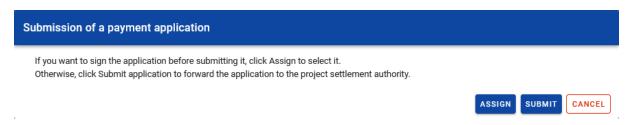


Figure 37. View of the submitting the payment claim window

If the payment claim still needs to be signed by another person in your entity before submission, you can assign him/her the task of signing the payment claim, as shown in Chapter 7.

The option to submit a payment claim will also be available in the 'Management of payment claim' menu.



Note:

- ▶ Partial payment claims are submitted by LP and PP to the relevant Controllers.
- Collective payment claims and quick payment claims for an advance payment are submitted by LP to JS.

As a result of submitting the payment claim:

- it changes its status to 'Submitted',
- the system automatically assigns it a number,
- you can no longer edit it,
- you can add and attach further attachments to the payment claim. In such a case, they will clearly be marked as added after submission.

Where the time frame specified in the payment claim does not fall later than the previous payment claim, the system displays a warning message.

IX CLARIFICATION OF THE PAYMENT CLAIM

The chapter applies to each type of payment claim (partial, collective).

As a result of the verification, your payment claim may be returned to you for clarification by the institution verifying your payment claim. At the same time, the competent institution should send you correspondence within the system, with information about the errors identified and the items to clarify in the payment claim.

To start clarifying your payment claim, enter the payment claim preview mode and then select the 'Correct' option in the 'Management of payment claim' menu.



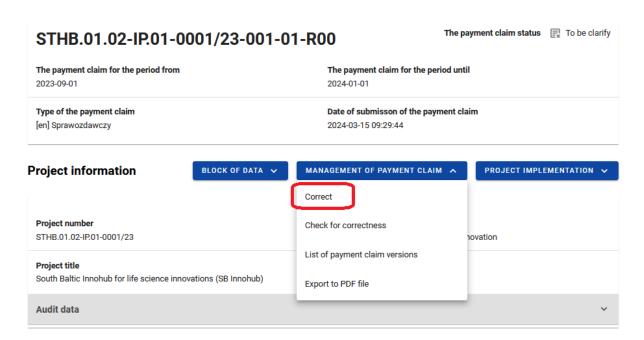


Figure 38. View of the Correct function

During the clarification process, the system creates a new version of the payment claim, which you can edit. Once you have made the clarification, you must sign the payment claim again and submit it to the institution, just as you did when you sent the first version of the payment claim.

Applies only to collective payment claims.

Note:

If the JS identifies errors in a partial payment claim attached to a collective payment claim, the first step is to correct the data in the partial payment claim.

In this situation, the JS sends the collective payment claim back to the LP. The LP should start correcting the payment claim (as described above in this chapter) and then select the option to change the period/type in the Management of payment claim menu and detach the given partial payment claim requiring correction from it. When the partial payment claim is corrected, the LP will be informed of this fact and will be able to re-attach the partial payment claim to the collective payment claim and send it to the JS. In such situation, the descriptive fields in the collective payment claim should be once again rewrited by LP.



X PAYMENT CLAIM PREVIEW

The chapter applies to each type of payment claim (partial, collective).

When you enter the payment claim preview (regardless of the type of payment claim), the Project Information block is presented by default.

At the top of the view is the basic data section of the payment claim. It consists of the following elements:

- ▶ Payment claim number (or project number if the payment claim does not have a number),
- Payment claim status,
- The payment claim for the period from,
- The payment claim for the period to,
- Type of the payment claim,
- Date of submission of the payment claim.

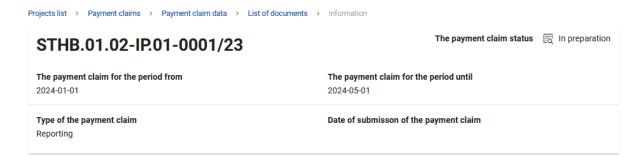


Figure 39. View of the section with basic information about the payment claim

Each time you enter a payment claim, the system checks whether the project data has changed. If there have been changes to the project that affect your payment claim, a message will notify you of this.

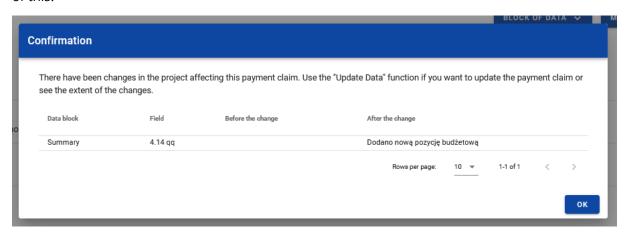


Figure 40. View of project data change message



You also have the option of updating the payment claim data according to the new project data via the 'Update Data' function available in the 'Management of payment claim' menu.