

## **Q&A Member States Guidances**

Eligibility of National Insurance and Pension contributions, whilst beneficiary organisation in receipt of payments via Job Retention Scheme  Eligibility of office furniture costs for home working  No change to the rules on defrayment as a result of COVID-19  Eligibility of premises adaptation and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) costs – in preparing for post COVID-19 project activity.  Accepting email confirmation/ declaration from a participant/ individual employee within a SME/ business organisation to confirm eligibility to participated in ESF/ERDF operations (in place of a 'wet' or fully electronic signatures)  Eligibility of cancellation fees Restrictions on travel abroad  Eligibility of necessary project costs where official restrictions are in place which affect 'business as usual' activity (rental while working at home, staff at home, flat rates)  Verifications  Claim declarations and the need for beneficiaries to confirm no 'double funding', particularly where access to 'job retention schemes'  Clarity on deferred verifications and paying a claim  Using electronic signatures instead of hard copy documents  Accepting scanned copies of identification or emailed enrolment forms as evidence for management verifications  Payment claims  Extending deadlines for claim submissions, verification checks and review findings under the COVID 19 circumstances  Project delivery  Extending project activity under current rules to help respond to the COVID 19 situation  Face-to-face support to participants and businesses has now ceased and is being delivered remotely i.e. telephone/ email/ skype. Providing evidence of delivered support through alternative method  Impact of COVID-19 upon recording ESF immediate result indicator 'participants into employment upon leaving'  Extending projects and increase costs with little or no increase in targets and outputs		<u></u>
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Horizontal	Agreed/established accounting/ management & control/ monitoring systems for
issues	operations/ projects, stay in place in order to claim support from the structural
	funds & satisfy audit requirements
	Application of the <b>Temporary Framework for State Aid</b> in ESIF funds
	Changes to procurement rules as a result of COVID 19 (extreme urgency)
	Due to remote working, ensuring that 2 people are present in the <b>opening of</b>
	tender documents