

TEN-T relevance audit

Objectives

For the sake of project awarding under priority 7b it should prove that the developed road or railway section is on a reasonable (not necessarily on the shortest) route between one of the tertiary node settlements listed in the Cooperation Programme and the TEN-T network (either road or rail TEN-T link).

The process is the following:

- The Lead Partner should select an expert and should apply for an audit process.
- The expert will check the relevance against the Cooperation Programme definition and will prepare the necessary audit report.
- The audit report is an obligatory annex of the project application.

Independent expert selection

The experts will be selected in accordance with the public procurement laws. The following technical competences are required:

- The tenderer has to provide at least one professional who has completed specialized higher education, has at least 5 years project management experience in transport development projects and has participated at least in one traffic modelling work in the framework of EU financed cross-border/international transport development projects.
- The tenderer shall have at least one of the following professional experiences in the period of 3 years preceding the date of the submission of the invitation to tender:
 - at least one completed contract that covered both railway and road transport and contained cross-border traffic modelling;
 - at least one completed contract that contained the preparation of a feasibility study for the development of a cross-border area including its frontier zone. The frontier zone shall be considered as the area lying in the 50 km distance from the border at both sides.

In frame of the public procurement process the tenderer should attach a signed statement that he/she/it doesn't capitalize on the project implementation either directly or indirectly neither in financial nor in economic term. A copy of this statement must be attached to the audit report.

Only those projects can be cited as reference in which the examinations covered both sides of the border.

The contracting authority may accept a reference related to a contract signed before the preceding 3 years period, in case the required tasks have been completed in the relevant 3 years period.

Audit process

The audit is intended to support the Interreg V-A Austria Hungary Cooperation Programme in order to justify project selection under priority 7b.

Steps

The steps of the audit process:

- The Lead Partner sends an official audit order to the selected expert
- Following the contract between Lead Partner and the expert, Lead Partner provides all necessary data and input required by the expert (project location, scope, traffic data if any, etc.)
- Preparation of the audit report
- Issue of the final, signed audit report within the project application process. (The Lead Partner should stand for the audit costs independently from the result of the audit!)

Content of the audit report

The audit report should contain the following items:

- One-page audit certificate about the 7b priority relevance (see the attached sample)
- Audit report with transparent presentation of how the project contributes to the followings:
 - The project improves a connection between a tertiary node and the TEN-T network
 - The project concerns a connection which effectively crosses the border or which creates a new, direct border crossing.
 - By the project the travel time will be shortened.
 - There is mutual (on both sides of the border) socio-economic and environmental benefit.
 - The project is in line with the road safety directive.
 - The newly constructed or upgraded road will be open for transport for a minimum period of 5 years.
- A map presenting the location of the development and its connection to the TEN-T network.
- A copy of the auditor's statement of independency, as submitted in the public procurement process.

Costs of the audit report

The cost of the audit report will be settled in the service contract between the Lead Partner/Project Partner and the tenderer.

The costs of the audit report, borne by the LP or PP can be reimbursed according to the Cooperation Program's Eligibility Handbook point 3.6. Preparation costs if the project is approved, fulfils all the conditions for approval set by the MC and the subsidy contract is signed.

Audit certificate

Number of certificate	No#		Lead Partner:
Date Issue:			
			Independent expert

The expert hereby certifies that according to the documentation and the inquiry

THE PROJECT (identifier, name)

fulfils /failed to fulfil

the special criteria for the selection of applications in the
Investment priority 7b (SO31) of the
Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Austria–Hungary

sig. Independent Expert