

Third Meeting of the WG2 Finance COST Targeted Network TN1302: BESTPRAC

Experiences in EC AUDIT

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- EC audit is **not** for the whole **consortium but** for one **beneficiary** and has usually more than one project under scrutiny
- EC audit resets the threshold for producing the certificate of financial statement

- During FP7 (2007-2013) UTU has had three EC audits
 - 2010: 3 projects (Faculty of Medicine)
 - 2011: 2 projects (School of Economics)
 - 2014: 3 projects (Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences)

- Started with internal planning session and division of work
- Lots of pre-audit material to compile and details to communicate with the auditor
- On-site phase has joint opening session, field work (1-x days) and closing session
- Lots of post-audit material
- Draft report is sent to the beneficiary for comments
- Final report will indicate how and when the findings must be corrected

- First EC audit in 2010 (3 projects)
 - Performed by EC (Finnish auditor)
 - Minor notes and recommendations

- **Second EC audit in 2011 (2 projects)**
 - Performed by LubbockFine Ltd, (GBR)
 - On-site outsourced to a Finnish auditing company
 - Only one day on-site visit
 - Extra effort for having the audit for projects in a school that wasn't part of the university for the major part of project execution
 - Minor notes and recommendations
 - Reallocation of costs between subcontracting / consumables

- Third EC audit in 2014 (3 projects, 1 ERC)
 - Performed by LubbockFine Ltd (GBR) and EC
 - Lasted three full days, practically all UTU's procedures and policies were questioned
 - Lots of additional material formulated afterwards
 - Still waiting for the results

To consider

- Big input from both university and faculty/unit level needed
- As the initial information letter arrives, in principle there's 20 working days time to put everything together (< negotiable)
 - If it really applies, you are probably in trouble
- Though technically projects' Forms C are being audited, real target is the organization and its practices!

Suggestions

- University should appoint a coordinator that has a clear mandate to conduct the audit
- Has to be made clear for everyone involved, it's a joint effort
 - Open the risks for P.I. and the faculty, what's really at stake
 - At worst, EC can broaden the audit to any or all of beneficiary's projects from EC

Thank you.

Questions?

Discussion on everyone's experiences?