

1. Is it possible to postpone the starting date of the action?

Postponement of the starting date of the action should be possible for grant agreements about to be signed (in Grant Agreement Preparation stage) and, via an amendment, for grant agreements already signed but with a starting date in the future (no work has started yet). Of course a starting date fixed later in time will delay the pre-financing payment.

If it is not possible to carry out any work under the action, beneficiaries may also request to suspend the implementation of the action (Article 49(1) H2020 MGA). However, costs incurred during action suspension cannot be charged.

2. How will possible delays in submitting deliverables and reports be handled by the funding bodies?

- Given the COVID 19 situation, full flexibility will be given on scheduled due date to submit deliverables, to reach milestones and/or to submit reports whose performance was impacted by the confinement measures.
- In particular, for reports linked to payments, the coordinator will still be able to submit the report at the due date set in the grant agreement, but flexibility will be allowed as regards the 60 days period for the submission of the report (see also FAQ on ‘Interim and final payments’ and ‘possibility to extend the project duration’). However, any late report linked to payment will subsequently lead to later payment.

3. What happens if beneficiaries cannot submit all/complete elements for their reports related to interim and final payments?

For interim payments:

Given the Covid 19 situation, flexibility will be given regarding the completeness of reports submitted in relation to interim payments. Beneficiaries must still submit scientific and financial reports. However, given the Covid-19 situation, beneficiaries will be entitled to submit a shorter narrative part of their scientific report, e.g. focusing only on key explanation of work performed (e.g. key achievements; explanations on difficulties to perform tasks due to this situation etc.). The remaining documents may be submitted at the next reporting period.

For final payments:

- Given the Covid 19 situation, the funding bodies will make the final payment even if the beneficiaries are unable to submit the Certificate on Financial Statements (‘CFS’) with their final reporting obligation (see Article 20.4 H2020 MGA). However, the amount of the payment for those beneficiaries who do not submit the CFS will be capped at the

threshold required for CFS of EUR 324.999. Beneficiaries will receive a complementary payment once they submit the CFS for the remaining amount covered by the CFS.

- However, if their final report is not yet complete due to other aspects (e.g. because of some tasks not still fully accomplished), they may request an amendment for an extension of the action duration, up to 6 months, to complete it (see FAQ on ‘project duration’. If so, beneficiaries will have still to submit their CFS with their final report later on.

4. Is there any possibility to extend the project duration due to the Covid-19 situation?

Yes, beneficiaries may request an amendment for an extension of up to 6 months of initial project duration due to the Covid-19 situation. Such requests will be handled favourably and in a speedy manner. Any request beyond the 6 month period mentioned before will be granted based on case-by-case assessment of the POs. However, the maximum grant amount indicated in Article 5 H2020 MGA cannot be increased.

5. What happens to costs when there are difficulties in implementing the action due to the Covid-19 situation?

For actual cost-based H2020 actions & MSCA actions

- Given this unprecedented pandemic situation, maximum flexibility will be given in relation to the action implementation.
- Whenever possible beneficiaries are encourage to telework or to use other forms of remote working. Teleworking costs will be accepted as eligible under the confinement period even if it is not the beneficiary’s usual practice to telework.

Beneficiaries are also highly encouraged to shift their tasks whenever possible. For instance, tasks where physical presence is needed on the ground (e.g. experiments/lab work etc.) may be postponed after confinement measures are over and meanwhile remote work could be done instead (drafting of reports, leaflets, etc.). Costs will still be eligible for the work carried out under the action even if such shifting entails deviations as from the initial the timing set out in Annex 1.

Additional possibility for H2020 MSCA actions :

- Beneficiaries are reminded that periods in which a researcher was absent for 30 consecutive days or less (for reasons other than normal annual leave) can STILL be charged to the action and the costs will be eligible.
- Moreover, the budget is flexible on the use of the amounts received. Research, training and networking unit costs should be used primarily for the research, training and networking activities foreseen in Annex 1. Yet, beneficiaries may allocate some of these amounts to help maintaining the salary of the researchers that are prevented from implementing the action due to the Covid-19 situation.

6. Is there any possibility to readjust rapidly on-going projects to help tackling the Covid-19 outbreak?

Amendments should in principle not imply changes to the project that would call into question the award decision. However, due to the current situation, if reorienting your project might have an impact in addressing the impact of the measures taken to contain the outbreak of the Coronavirus COVID-19, this could be granted (via an amendment) if request by beneficiaries following a case-by-case assessment by the Project Officer.