



TESIM

Technical support to the implementation and management of ENI CBC programmes

Note on the audit opinions in the ENI CBC programmes

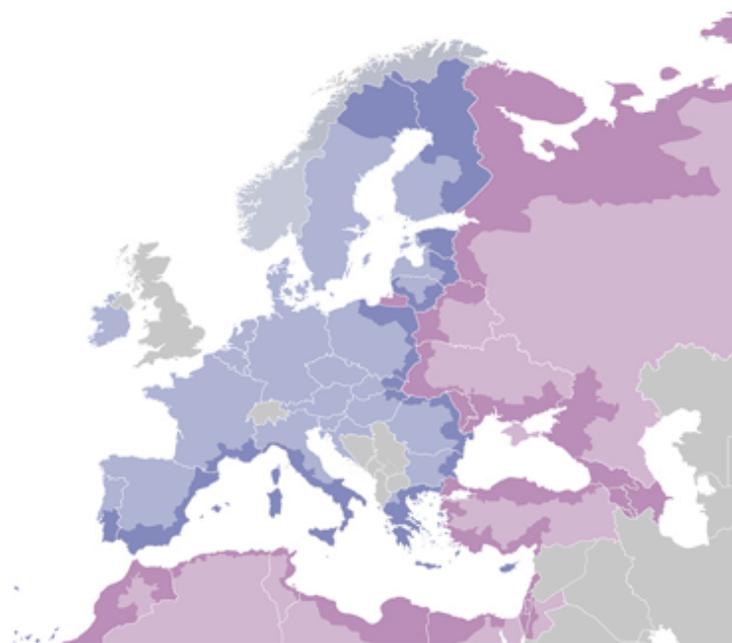
Legal framework and recommendations

December 2020

DISCLAIMER

This **non-binding document** has been developed by the TESIM project.

It does not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission on the topic, and is presented to programme practitioners **for illustrative purposes only**.



1. Purpose of the note

The audit opinion to be provided annually by the Audit Authority for each programme, in compliance with Article 68(4) of the ENI CBC IR, is based on the conclusions drawn from the audit evidence obtained.

According to the instructions provided by the DG Regio during the 4th network meeting on ENI CBC audit issues (October 26, 2020), it is recommended to refer to the "**Guidance for Member States on the Annual Control Report and Audit Opinion to be reported by audit authorities and on the treatment of errors detected by audit authorities in view of establishing and reporting reliable total residual error rates**" (EGESIF 15-0002-04) for formulating the audit opinion.

However, when it comes to the audit opinion itself, the proposed template text in the section III, chapter 2 "Types of audit opinion" of the above-mentioned document should be adapted to the requirements of the ENI CBC.

2. Template of the audit opinions

Please find below the amendments to the templates of the audit opinion – text **marked in bold**:

- A legal reference to the CPR has been replaced by the article 68(4) of the ENI CBC IR;
- Reference to the "expenditure for which the reimbursement been requested" has been replaced with "the expenditure for which the clearing has been requested".

Unqualified opinion:

In my opinion, and based on the audit work performed:

- the accounts give a true and fair view, as established by **Article 68(4) of Regulation (EU) No 897/2014**;
- the expenditure in the accounts, for which **the clearing** has been requested **in the amount of XXX Eur** from the Commission is legal and regular;
- the management and control systems put in place function properly.

The audit work carried out does not put in doubt the assertions made in the management declaration.

[The audit authority may also include emphasis of matter, not affecting its opinion, as established by internationally accepted auditing standards. A disclaimer of opinion can be foreseen in exceptional cases.]

Qualified opinion:

In my opinion, and based on the audit work performed:

- the accounts give a true and fair view, as established by **Article 68(4) of Regulation (EU) No 897/2014**;
- the expenditure in the accounts for which **the clearing** has been requested **in the amount of XXX Eur** from the Commission is legal and regular;
- the management and control systems put in place function properly.

Except in the following aspects [delete as appropriate]:

in relation to material matters related to the accounts: ...

and/or [delete as appropriate]

in relation to material matters related to the legality and regularity of the expenditure in the accounts for which reimbursement has been requested from the Commission: ...

and/or [delete as appropriate] in relation to material matters related to the functioning of the management and control system:

Therefore, I estimate that the impact of the qualification(s) is [limited] / [significant]. [delete as appropriate]

This impact corresponds to [amount in € and %] of the total expenditure declared. The Union contribution affected is thus ... [amount in €].

The audit work carried out does not put / puts [delete as appropriate] in doubt the assertions made in the management declaration.

[Where the audit work carried out puts in doubt the assertions made in the management declaration, the Audit Authority shall disclose in this paragraph the aspects leading to this conclusion.]

[The audit authority may also include emphasis of matter, not affecting its opinion, as established by internationally accepted auditing standards. A disclaimer of opinion can be foreseen in exceptional cases.]

Adverse opinion:

In my opinion, and based on the audit work performed:

- the accounts give / do not give [delete as appropriate] a true and fair view, as established by **Article 68(4) of Regulation (EU) No 897/2014**;
- the expenditure in the accounts for which **the clearing** has been requested **in the amount of XXX Eur** from the Commission is / is not [delete as appropriate] legal and regular;
- the management and control systems put in place function / does not function [delete as appropriate] properly.

This adverse opinion is based on the following aspects [delete as appropriate]:

in relation to material matters related to the accounts:

and/or [delete as appropriate]

in relation to material matters related to the legality and regularity of the expenditure in the accounts for which reimbursement has been requested from the Commission: ...

and/or [delete as appropriate]

in relation to material matters related to the functioning of the management and control system: ...

The audit work carried out puts in doubt the assertions made in the management declaration for the following aspects: ...

[The audit authority may also include emphasis of matter, not affecting its opinion, as established by internationally accepted auditing standards. A disclaimer of opinion can be foreseen in exceptional cases.]

