

FAQs on the topic of programme grants/overheads from 1 July 2024 Continuation model 2024

Last updated 27/06/2024

Which projects are affected by the new regulations adopted on 18 June 2024?

In principle, all externally funded projects that are not contract research or scientific services and for which programme grants/overheads or similar funds were acquired after 1 January 2023 are affected by the new regulations. In particular, funds on the cost centres for indirect project expenditure opened in October 2023 will also be converted to the new model. The modalities for this can be found in the *letter from the provost dated 27 June 2024* and the attached *overview of the continuation model 2024*. You will also find the letter on the [intranet](#) in the section of the Finances Unit, External Funding.

Programme grants/overheads or similar that were provided before 31 December 2022 in individual (collective) accounts (then in the former third-party funding title groups TG 92 etc., now TG 41) are not affected by the changes that will apply from 1 July 2024. For funds of this type from DFG projects, please refer to the following question.

The regulations applicable to ESF projects/EFRE projects (EU), Collaborative Research Centres, Research Training Groups and Clusters of Excellence will be communicated separately to those responsible.

What applies to overhead/programme grants that were allocated to a collective account (then e.g. TG 92, now TG 41) until 31.12.2022?

The new regulations from the University Governing Board resolution of 18 June 2024 have no effect on these funds. Furthermore, the regulations apply to DFG programme grants, hereinafter DFG-PP (excerpt from the *provost's letter dated 3 November 2023*):

It is not permitted to hold reserves for DFG PP funds that have been transferred to the project leaders' collective accounts by 31 December 2022. Fund utilization plans must be drawn up in accordance with DFG guidelines. For the University of Bayreuth, a scheduled reduction of funds until 31 December 2025 has been defined. For reserves established by 31 December 2022, the account holders of the pooled accounts are required by the DFG to maintain and annually update binding appropriation plans (in the form of an estimate of future expenditure, for example broken down by cost/expenditure type) for the DFG-PP funds accumulated up to the aforementioned deadline. These must be kept at the account holder's organizational unit and presented upon request in the event of an audit by the DFG or similar. The regulations concerning the maintenance of utilization plans also apply to the Collaborative Research Centres and the Cluster of Excellence. The relevant managers must ensure that the utilization plans are kept available.

Funds of this type from other third-party funders are currently not affected by the special regulations for DFG PPs and are subject to any individual requirements of the third-party funder.

I received a cost centre for indirect project expenditure between October 2023 and June 2024 and still have corresponding funds. Is any action required now?

No, the conversion of funds to the new model will be carried out by division II/1.1.3 in two steps without you having to do anything. Please refer to the *provost's letter dated 27 June 2024* and the attached *overview of the continuation model* for the procedure for the conversion.

I have acquired a new project for which programme grants/overheads have been approved: How do I receive the budget funds that will be made available to me on a pro rata basis?

Division II/1.1.4 will first check the entitlement to receive the funds upon receipt of the authorization. If the check is positive, the funds will be made available to your collective cost centre at the start of the project. If you do not yet have a collective cost centre, this will be opened by division II/1.1.3. You do not need to submit an application or similar. The entitlement check and opening of the cost centres are carried out without any further action on your part. You will be informed about the allocation or opening of the cost centre.

The funds are made available at the start of the project and the amount of funding is determined on the basis of the approved programme allowance/overhead. Do overheads/PP have to be repaid if the project costs are lower than approved?

Repayment of overheads/PP is generally not provided for unless exceptional circumstances arise.

What does "for research and teaching purposes" mean? Can, for example, equipment be purchased, hospitality and staff financed?

These are state budget funds. Therefore, the general budgetary management principles apply (e.g. economic efficiency and economy). The financing of scientific equipment and hospitality is possible within the framework of the generally applicable guidelines of the University of Bayreuth (e.g. hospitality guidelines) and in compliance with the budgetary management principles. Temporary staff may also be financed. Basically, projects that can be financed from the former title group 73 or from your research group cost centre can be financed.

It is not possible to finance e.g. purchases for the purposes of contract research and scientific services (= purchases in the commercial sector). The background to this is the current and well-known ban on cross-subsidising commercial contracts from public funds.

Will the funds be withdrawn at the end of the project?

No, the funds are generally available throughout the year, even if prompt expenditure is requested in order to avoid high residual amounts. However, two upper limits are monitored on a quarterly basis for liquidity and residual management purposes and funds are withdrawn accordingly if they are exceeded:

- Upper limit/maximum disposal amount of € 100,000 (before determination) per collective account
- Upper limit/maximum available amount of €5 million (before determination) across all collective cost centres in pool 40

For more detailed information on the upper limits and operational processing, please refer to the *letter from the provost dated 27 June 2024* and the attached *overview of the 2024 continuation model*.

What does "before determination" mean?

The commitment is an accounting parameter (earmarking of a cash expenditure). It shows a pending outflow of funds and thus reduces the free funds available on a cost centre. In particular, it is posted to a cost centre as part of a procurement process when the order has been officially awarded to the supplier (i.e. the review of the procurement law requirements has been successfully completed, the supplier has been selected, etc.). Once the final payment has been made, the commitment is cancelled and the actual outflow of funds is posted.

The maximum available budget or the upper limit of €100,000 is therefore the status of the cost centre without taking into account (= before) commitments (= "commitments" in HIS QIS). As not all commitments entered into, e.g. personnel costs, are posted as commitments, this ensures a standardized procedure.

My project was only completed shortly before the conversion to the new model and according to the regulations valid until 30.6.2024, the remainders would be collected on the cost centre for indirect project expenses. What happens to the remaining funds?

No cost centres for indirect project expenditure have been closed since 1 January 2024, and any residual funds have been collected. The remaining funds will be transferred to the new model in accordance with the regulations applicable from 1 July 2024.

My project started between 1 January 2023 and 1 November 2023, and I have not yet applied for funds for indirect project expenditure. Can I still receive the funds (now budget funds) under the new model?

Yes, the allocation of funds can be made up for later. Please contact the person responsible for you in External Funding Management, division II/1.1.4 and provide the necessary information (funding body, project name and cost centre, approval period). For more information on distribution of responsibilities in third-party funding administration, please see the *information sheet on programme grants/overheads* available on the [intranet](#) in the section of Finances, Third-party Funding.