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Answer given by Ms Ivanova
on behalf of the European Commission
(25.11.2024)

Pre-financing is provided for in Article 115(1), point (b)(i) of the Financial Regulation¹. It is paid by default in all signed Horizon Europe grants. The standard approach is to have one pre-financing. By default, it covers 160% of the average EU funding per reporting period, so beneficiaries have sufficient cash to work until the first payment against reported costs.

Exceptions apply where the grant agreement includes multiple pre-financing payments², or via an amendment of the grant agreement, usually after an increase of the maximum grant amount in the cases of:

- ‘hop-on’ grant amendments, adding a new participant from a widening country to an existing consortium: currently about 25 projects³;
- some large grants (e.g. ‘co-fund grants’ to consortia of Member State national funders or Knowledge and Innovation Communities under the European Institute of Technology (EIT-KICs⁴)) with multiple pre-financings as defined in the grant agreement: currently 16 projects;
- ‘top-up’ amendments in ‘co-fund’ grants, where additional budget from budget years beyond the original commitment is assigned to existing ‘co-fund grants: currently 3 projects;
- European Innovation Council (EIC) Accelerator⁵ grants with multiple pre-financings: about 600 projects.

In addition, a few cases exist where an additional pre-financing is given, taking account of the particular circumstances of the grant.

Also in Horizon 2020, the standard approach was to have one pre-financing. Multiple pre-financing was used in particular in ERA (European Research Area)-NET grants⁶ (predecessor of the co-fund grants of Horizon Europe).

¹ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast), OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024.

² Additional pre-financing subject to conditions for the consumption of the first pre-financing.

³ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-06-01?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=relevance&keywords=HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS%0206-01&isExactMatch=true&status=31094501,31094502,31094503&frameworkProgramme=43108390> and <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ACCESS-07-01?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=startDate&keywords=HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ACCESS-07-01&isExactMatch=true&status=31094501,31094502,31094503&frameworkProgramme=43108390>

⁴ <https://eit.europa.eu/news-events/news/eit-knowledge-and-innovation-communities-kics-receive-positive-reviews>

⁵ https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-funding-opportunities/eic-accelerator_en

⁶ <https://www.era-learn.eu/>

The hop-on scheme did not exist in Horizon 2020, so grants with more than one pre-financing occurred even more exceptionally than in Horizon Europe.