



Innovation and Networks Executive Agency

REPORT ON BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT 2020

Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA)

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INTRODUCTION

Executive Agencies are established by the European Commission in accordance with the Council Regulation (EC) No 58/2003¹ with the purpose of delegating certain tasks relating to the management of EU programmes, including budget implementation.

Based in Brussels, the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency² (INEA) was delegated new responsibilities by the European Commission that cover the management of new EU funding schemes under the 2014-2020 Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF)³: parts of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)⁴; parts of the Part III Societal Challenges Specific Programme under the H2020 research and innovation funding programme⁵. The Agency was also entrusted with two legacy programmes: the Trans-European Transport Network Programme (TEN-T)⁶ and the Marco Polo Programme⁷. In addition, INEA accepted the delegation to manage the WiFi4EU initiative⁸, part of the CEF Telecom programme, from May 2018 as well as the delegation to manage the Innovation Fund⁹ from June 2020.

The delegation of powers and definition of INEA's tasks, as well as the regulations and procedures with which it has to comply, are set out in its Delegation Act¹⁰.

INEA's administrative budget is governed by a specific regulation for Executive Agencies, which closely follows the Financial Regulations while allowing specific requirements¹¹. The Director acts as Authorising Officer for the administrative budget, and the accounting for administrative expenses is the responsibility of the Agency's Accounting Officer.

I. 2020 ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET MAIN FIGURES

Final Administrative Budget after amendments	EUR 30,986,000
Total Amendments (increase):	EUR 217,000
% Budget Execution in commitments:	99.8%
% Budget Execution in payments:	95.0%
% Budget Carry-Forward:	4.7%
Average Time To Pay (TTP):	8.5 days

¹ [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 58/2003](#) laying down the statute for Executive Agencies to be entrusted with certain tasks in the management of Community programmes; Commission Regulation (EC) No 1653/2004 of 21 September 2004 on the Financial Regulation for the Executive Agencies pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No 58/2003, as amended by (EC) No 651/2008 of 9 July 2008.

² Commission Decision 2013/801/EU of 23 December 2013 establishing the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency and repealing Decision 2007/60/EC, last amended by Commission Decision (EU) 2020/669 of 18 May 2020

³ <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/d2cf202e-f36a-45b2-84e7-1ac6ad996e90>

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility>

⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/secure-clean-and-efficient-energy>

⁶ <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/ten-t/ten-t-projects>

⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/marco-polo>

⁸ <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility/cef-telecom/wifi4eu>

⁹ <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/innovation-fund>

¹⁰ [Decision C\(2013\) 9235 of 23 December 2013](#) delegating powers to the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency with a view to the performance of tasks linked to the implementation of Union programmes in the field of transport, energy and telecommunications infrastructure and in the field of transport and energy research and innovation comprising, in particular, implementation of appropriations entered in the general budget of the Union, as last amended by Decision C(2020) 3147 final as regards the Innovation Fund.

¹¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:297:0006:0016:EN:PDF> and <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32008R0651&from=EN>

II. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

A. REVENUE

The 2020 revenue consisted mainly of a subsidy from the general budget of the European Union. Following the delegation of the Innovation Fund programme, the Agency's revenue also included other external assigned revenues¹². Therefore, the subsidy was broken down into four budget lines as follows:

a) Connecting Europe Facility¹³:

- 06 01 06 01 - Contribution from Connecting Europe Facility (CEF): **EUR 16,101,495** - covering administrative expenditures related to the implementation of the transport, energy and telecommunication sectors;
- 06 01 06 03 – Contribution from the Cohesion Fund: **EUR 6,161,793** - representing the cohesion fund's contribution to cover part of administrative expenditures related to the implementation of the transport sector.

b) Horizon 2020

- 08 01 06 04 - Contribution from Horizon 2020: **EUR 8,335,783** - covering the administrative expenditures related to the implementation of the parts of the energy and transport Societal Challenges delegated to the Agency.

c) Innovation Fund

- 34 01 06 01 - Contribution from the Innovation Fund: **EUR 386,929** - covering the administrative expenditures related to the implementation of the programme.

In addition, there was a supplementary revenue of **EUR 216,219** coming from the European Economic Area contributions (EEA) for Horizon 2020 and the CEF programmes (Telecommunication sector), as well as from third parties for Horizon 2020 as outlined in the table below.

The total subsidy amounted therefore to **EUR 30,986,000**.

¹² External Assigned Revenues provided for the Innovation Fund are financial contributions from the proceeds of the auctioning of emission allowances through the EU Emissions Trading system, not included in the General EU Budget. The amount depends on the market value of emission allowances.

¹³ The management of the legacy of TEN-T and Marco Polo II as well as the new programme Wifi4EU are covered by the CEF subsidy budget lines.

Table 1: Distribution of the subsidy by budget lines in 2020 (EUR)

Subsidy Budget Line	General Budget	EEA/EFTA contributions	Other external assigned revenues	Total
06 01 06 01	16,081,441	20,054	-	16,101,495
06 01 06 03	6,161,793	-	-	6,161,793
08 01 06 04	8,139,618	196,165	-	8,335,783
34 01 06 01	-	-	386,929	386,929
Total	30,382,852	216,219	386,929	30,986,000

B. INITIAL BUDGET, AMENDING BUDGET AND FINAL BUDGET

Administrative expenditures are non-dissociated appropriations (commitment and payment appropriations are in unison), therefore any transfers or budget amendments are authorised or adopted in both commitment and payment appropriations.

Transfers¹⁴ are approved by the Director or the Steering Committee for all modifications in the detailed allocation of the administrative expenditure. Amendments¹⁵ are approved by the Steering Committee.

The administrative budget¹⁶ for 2020 initially amounted to EUR 30,769,000¹⁷, which represented an increase of 6.5% (EUR 1,885,000) compared to the 2019 amended budget.

Title 1 costs increased by 8% in comparison to the 2019 Amended budget (EUR 1,854,000) due to a lower vacancy rate than forecasted and an efficient implementation of the recruitment plan.

In Title 2, the slight increase of about 3% was due to the combination of an increase of building expenditure (EUR 55,000) and ICT expenditure (EUR 68,000). Building charges took into account the estimated inflation for 2020. ICT costs returned to a normal level of expenditure in 2020 as they were decreased in 2019 due to anticipated purchases done in 2018.

In order to compensate for the increase in staff costs, expenditures under title 3 were decreased compared to 2019 by about 7%, i.e. Missions budget (- EUR 30.000), Audit costs thanks to more audits being performed by INEA's own external audit managers (- EUR 16,000) and IT consultants (-EUR 56.000). There was however, a slight increase in the budget foreseen for communication (+ EUR 7,000) inter alia due to an increase of the budget for info-days.

¹⁴ Transfers are appropriations moved between budget lines/chapters/titles

¹⁵ Amendments are changes to the global amount budgeted (either increase or reduction)

¹⁶ The structure of the administrative budget follows the same simplified structure as used by the other five Executive Agencies in order to allow a straightforward comparison and simplify the work of parent DGs involved in the Steering Committees of several Executive Agencies.

¹⁷ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.C_.2020.107.01.0107.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AC%3A2020%3A107%3ATOC

Table 2: Evolution of the 2020 budget (EUR)

2020 INEA administrative budget	Initial Budget (EUR)	Amendment #1 (EUR)	Amendment #2 (EUR)
	30,769,000	1,342,000	-1,125,000
I - STAFF EXPENDITURE	25,140,000	584,000	64,250
11 - Remuneration allowances and charges	23,640,000	520,000	-46,000
1111 - Temporary agents	9,390,000	168,000	-23,000
1121 - Contract Agents	13,949,000	352,000	-38,000
1131 - Interim and trainees	301,000	0	15,000
12 - Socio, medical and training expenditure	1,500,000	64,000	110,250
1211 - Medical services	129,000	8,000	0
1221 - Training	274,000	8,000	0
1231 - Administration of staff	412,000	8,000	0
1241 - Recruitment	35,000	20,000	0
1251 - Representation and internal meetings	10,000	0	0
1261 - Other social expenditure	640,000	20,000	110,250
II - INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPERATING EXPENDITURE	4,341,000	700,000	-673,818
21 - Building expenditure	3,194,000	615,000	-563,536
2111 - Rental of building	1,950,000	505,000	-563,536
2121 - Charges of the building	1,244,000	110,000	0
22 - ICT expenditure	971,000	50,000	-47,282
2211 - Hardware and software	376,000	30,000	-47,250
2221 - ICT Services	595,000	20,000	-32
23 - Movable property and current operating expenditure	176,000	35,000	-63,000
2311 - Furniture, technical installations, handling and removal services	56,000	30,000	-63,000
2321 - Office supplies, archive, subscription and correspondence	90,000	5,000	0
2331 - Other expenditure related to work environment	30,000	0	0
III - PROGRAMME SUPPORT EXPENDITURE	1,288,000	58,000	-515,432
31 - Programme Support Expenditure	1,288,000	58,000	-515,432
3111 - Missions and related expenditure	340,000	15,000	-295,000
3121 - Audit	184,000	0	-7,323
3131 - Operational related IT expenditure	407,000	0	-32,511
3141 - Communication, events and other Programme support expenditure	357,000	43,000	-180,598

1. Budget amendments

Table 3: List of amending budgets adopted by the Steering Committee in 2020 (EUR)

Date of adoption	Main subject	Impact on Commitment appropriations	Impact on Payment appropriations
26/06/2020	Increase due to the acceptance of the delegation of the Innovation Fund programme.	+1,342,000	+1,342,000
09/12/2020	Decrease due to the revision of budgetary needs following the impact of COVID-19.	-1,125,000	-1,125,000

1st Amendment (26/06/2020)

The total budget was then set at **EUR 32,111,000**¹⁸ (an increase of 4.4% compared to the initial budget) to cover the associated administrative expenditures following the acceptance of the delegation of the Innovation Fund programme.

The **budget for Title 1** increased by 2.3 %, which represented the salary of additional FTEs reflecting a realistic recruitment plan of the Innovation Fund staff during the second half of 2020 as well as an increase of the recruitment, training and other staff expenditure related to the additional staff.

The **budget for Title 2** increased by 16.1% to reflect the need to accommodate the new staff, resulting in renting one additional floor (1,260m²) in the building occupied by the Agency (W910) for 4 months in 2020, as well as the related building charges and the payment of one-off fitting works. In addition, hardware, software, additional ICT Services, movable property and current operating expenditure were also increased due to the additional staff.

The budget in Title 3 increased by 5 % as a result of the increase of the communication budget.

2nd Amendment (09/12/2020)

The total budget was then set at **EUR 30,986,000**¹⁹, representing a reduction of €1,125,000 compared to the 1st amended budget, but an increase of almost 1% compared to the initial 2020 budget of €30,769,000 adopted in December 2019.

While some items required a reinforcement, such as contractual agents staff costs, ICT Expenditure and other social expenditures, the majority of the other items did not require the budget previously foreseen due to savings following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹⁸ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020B0907%2803%29&qid=1616231130285>

¹⁹ Publication in the OJ foreseen on 31/03/2021.

2. Budget transfers

Table 4: List of transfers adopted in 2020 (EUR)

2020 INEA administrative budget	Initial Budget (EUR) 30,769,000	Transfer #1 (EUR)	
I - STAFF EXPENDITURE	25,140,000	0.00	
11 - Remuneration allowances and charges	23,640,000	232,247.00	
1111 - Temporary agents	9,390,000	0.00	-19,000.00
1121 - Contract Agents	13,949,000	303,000.00	0.00
1131 - Interim and trainees	301,000	0.00	-51,753.00
12 - Socio, medical and training expenditure	1,500,000	-232,247.00	
1211 - Medical services	129,000	0.00	-14,450.00
1221 - Training	274,000	0.00	-87,908.00
1231 - Administration of staff	412,000	0.00	-41,388.00
1241 - Recruitment	35,000	0.00	-34,000.00
1251 - Representation and internal meetings	10,000	0.00	-7,500.00
1261 - Other social expenditure	640,000	0.00	-47,001.00
II - INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPERATING EXPENDITURE	4,341,000	0.00	
21 - Building expenditure	3,194,000	-177,512.00	
2111 - Rental of building	1,950,000	0.00	-5,512.00
2121 - Charges of the building	1,244,000	0.00	-172,000.00
22 - ICT expenditure	971,000	150,000.00	
2211 - Hardware and software	376,000	161,000.00	0.00
2221 - ICT Services	595,000	0.00	-11,000.00
23 - Movable property and current operating expenditure	176,000	27,512.00	
2311 - Furniture, technical installations, handling and removal services	56,000	62,300.00	0.00
2321 - Office supplies, archive, subscription and correspondence	90,000	0.00	-13,438.00
2331 - Other expenditure related to work environment	30,000	0.00	-21,350.00
III - PROGRAMME SUPPORT EXPENDITURE	1,288,000	0.00	
31 - Programme Support Expenditure	1,288,000	0.00	
3111 - Missions and related expenditure	340,000	0.00	0.00
3121 - Audit	184,000	0.00	0.00
3131 - Operational related IT expenditure	407,000	0.00	0.00
3141 - Communication, events and other Programme support expenditure	357,000	0.00	0.00

One transfer of appropriations was necessary in 2020 to make sure the Agency's financial needs were met.

1st Transfer (Director's approval of 23/11/2020)

This transfer was necessary to pay December salaries and make other payroll regularisations. As a result, there was a need to reinforce budget line 1121 – Contract Agents by EUR 303,000.

This amount was transferred from the following budget lines:

- budget line 1111 – Temporary Agents: EUR 19,000
- budget line 1131 – Interim: EUR 51,753
- budget line 1211 – Medical Services: EUR 14,450
- budget line 1221 – Training: EUR 87,908
- budget line 1231 – Administration of staff: EUR 41,388
- budget line 1241 – Recruitment: EUR 34,000
- budget line 1251 – Representation and internal meetings: EUR 7,500
- budget line 1261 – Other social expenditures: EUR 47,001.

Under title 2, there was a need to reinforce budget line 2211 – Hardware and Software by EUR 161,000 in order to purchase an additional storage unit, to reimburse the screens due to extended home teleworking, to purchase another server and to fund the TEN-tec security plan. Finally, there was also a need to reinforce budget line 2311 – Furniture, technical installations, handling and removal by EUR 62,300 to cover the costs for reimbursement for office chairs due to extended home teleworking.

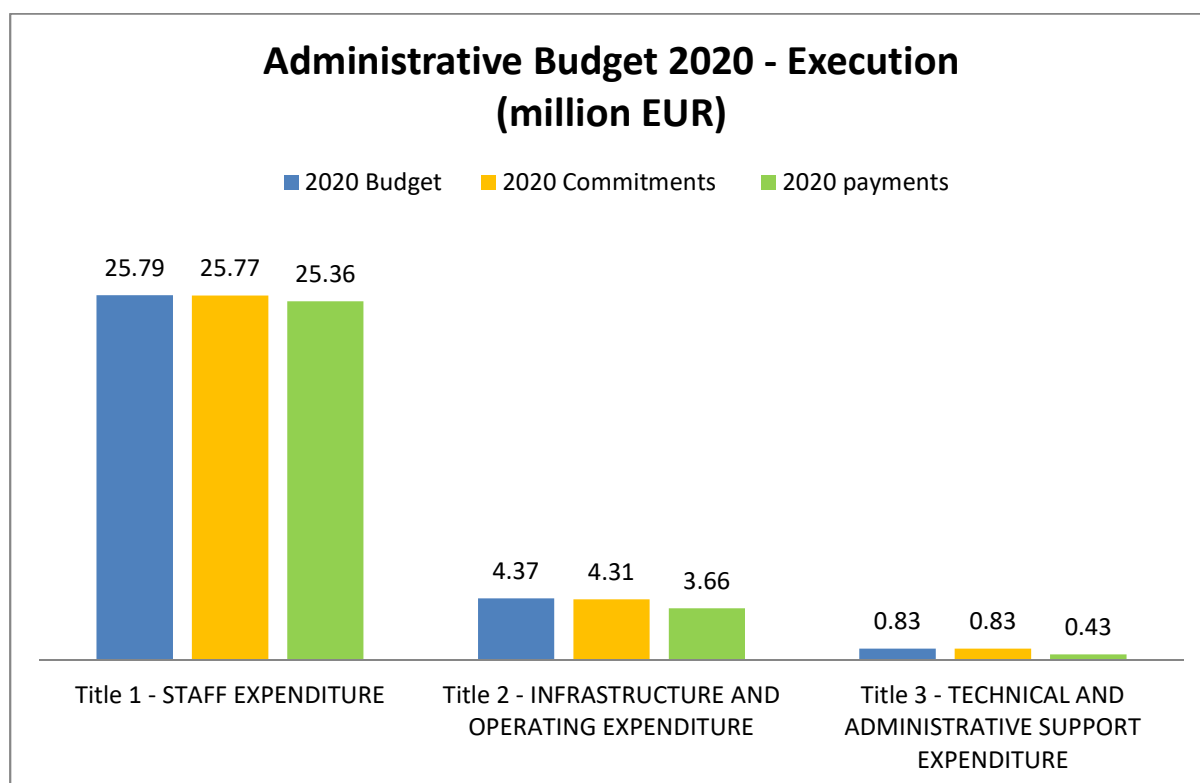
3. Budget implementation

Implementation 2020

By end of 2020, 99.76% of the commitment appropriations was implemented, which is comparable to 2019 (99.84%).

For payment appropriations, the implementation rate reached 95%, which is slightly lower than 2019 (96.39%). INEA continued to have a proactive approach in order to get invoiced by suppliers and Commission's services in due time, to avoid a high level of carry forward.

Graph 1. Administrative budget implementation in 2020



Carry Forward exercise 2020-2021

In 2020, an amount of EUR 1,461,095 was carried forward to cover contracts signed but which services would be provided in 2021 or for services provided in 2020 but not yet invoiced. This represented 4.7% of the committed appropriations (compared to EUR 982,036 or 3.4% of the committed appropriations in 2019). The split by title is presented in the table 5 below.

The carry forward was unevenly spread over the three titles of the budget due to the different nature of expenditure. The European Court of Auditors (ECA) recommends respectively a carry-forward rate below 10% for Title 1, below 20% for Title 2 and below 30% for Title 3.

The figures of 2% for Title 1, 15% for Title 2 and 49% for Title 3 for the carry-forward from 2020 to 2021 showed a slight deterioration compared to respectively 1%, 10% and 33% for the carry-forward from the previous year. The carry-forward for Title 3 was still under the recommended threshold of the ECA due to the full amount related to the external audit contract being carried-forward. This is mainly due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as the audits, transformed in desk reviews, last longer (the reception of the relevant documentation, checks and discussions required more time) in order to keep the same quality. The rest of carry-forwards stayed well below the recommended thresholds.

The detailed analysis of the carry forward on 2020 funds shows that 74% or EUR 1,080,786 corresponded to services provided to INEA in 2020 but not yet invoiced and that 26% or EUR 380,309 corresponded to services to be delivered in 2021 on the basis of contracts signed in 2020.

From the 2019 budget carried-forward to 2019, i.e. EUR 982,036 about 69% (or EUR 680,865) was paid and about 31% (or EUR 301,171) was de-committed, leading to an outturn of 98.7% for the 2019 administrative budget.

Table 5: Amounts carried forward from 2020 to 2021 (EUR)

2020 INEA administrative budget	Amount committed in 2020	Amounts carried forward from 2020 to 2021			
		A <i>(total amount of carry forward)</i>	B <i>(services provided in 2020, but still not invoiced)</i>	C <i>(services to be delivered in 2021)</i>	
	30,911,653 99.8%	1,461,095 4.7%		1,080,786 B/A = 74%	380,309 C/A = 26%
I - STAFF EXPENDITURE	25,770,417	411,641	Carry-forward = 2% (Benchmark ≤ 10%)	349,071 B/A = 85%	62,569 C/A = 15%
II - INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPERATING EXPENDITURE	4,310,680	646,316	Carry-forward = 15% (Benchmark ≤ 20%)	435,952 B/A = 67%	210,364 C/A = 33%
III - PROGRAMME SUPPORT EXPENDITURE	830,556	403,138	Carry-forward = 49% (Benchmark ≤ 30%)	295,763 B/A = 73%	107,375 C/A = 27%

Time to Pay

All payments were processed in time with an average of 8.5 calendar days, slightly increased from previous year due to the first weeks of COVID-19 pandemic and the teething problems linked to working remotely. However, this average is well below than the legal 30-day time to pay. The table below compares 2020 administrative budget data with those of 2019.

Table 6: Time to Pay and number of payments performed in 2020 vs 2019

	2020	2019		
Administrative budget	All payments	All payments		
	Number of payments	379	Number of payments	900
	Time to pay (days)	8.5	Time to pay (days)	7.1
	% of payments ≤30 calendar days	100%	% of payments ≤30 calendar days	100%

C. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BUDGETARY EXECUTION UNDER TITLES 1, 2 AND 3

Table 7: INEA Administrative Budget Execution Report 2020 (EUR)

Innovation and Networks Executive Agency ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET EXECUTION REPORT 2020 (UNTIL END OF DECEMBER)										
BUDGET EXECUTION OVERVIEW										
			2020 Budget	Execution in Commitments	% of execution	Execution in Payments	% of execution			
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURES - 2020			30,986,000.00	30,911,653.45	99.76%	29,450,558.03	95.0%			
Title	1	STAFF EXPENDITURE	25,788,250.00	25,770,417.17	99.93%	25,358,776.23	98.3%			
Chapter	11	Remuneration allowances charges	24,346,247.00	24,333,920.07	99.95%	24,263,547.11	99.7%			
Chapter	12	Socio medical & training expenditure	1,442,003.00	1,436,497.10	99.62%	1,095,229.12	76.0%			
Title	2	INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPERATING EXPENDITURE	4,367,182.00	4,310,679.79	98.71%	3,664,363.63	83.9%			
Chapter	21	Building expenditure	3,067,953.00	3,067,952.34	100.00%	2,747,210.61	89.5%			
Chapter	22	ICT expenditure	1,123,717.00	1,073,241.03	95.51%	830,527.92	73.9%			
Chapter	23	Movable property & current operating expenditure	175,512.00	169,486.42	96.57%	86,625.10	49.4%			
Title	3	TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT EXPENDITURE	830,568.00	830,556.49	100.00%	427,418.17	51.5%			
Chapter	31	Programme Support Expenditure	830,568.00	830,556.49	100.00%	427,418.17	51.5%			
			2019 Budget	Committed 2019	Paid 2019	Carried forward to 2020	Paid in 2020	Decommitted 2020	RAL	Outturn
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURES - 2019			28,884,000.00	28,837,776.65	27,841,183.62	982,036.53	680,865.09	301,171.44	0.00	98.7%
Title	1	STAFF EXPENDITURE	23,868,000.00	23,853,153.92	23,600,953.57	237,643.85	93,174.66	144,469.19	0.00	99.3%
Chapter	11	Remuneration allowances charges	22,537,000.00	22,536,991.20	22,467,606.50	54,828.20	37,288.11	17,540.09	0.00	99.9%
Chapter	12	Socio medical & training expenditure	1,331,000.00	1,316,162.72	1,133,347.07	182,815.65	55,886.55	126,929.10	0.00	89.3%
Title	2	INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPERATING EXPENDITURE	3,940,000.00	3,908,822.72	3,523,014.37	385,808.35	285,189.14	100,619.21	0.00	96.7%
Chapter	21	Building expenditure	3,103,342.46	3,102,842.46	2,832,381.50	270,460.96	215,065.57	55,395.39	0.00	98.2%
Chapter	22	ICT expenditure	702,762.02	688,344.26	613,317.53	75,026.73	33,546.29	41,480.44	0.00	92.0%
Chapter	23	Movable property & current operating expenditure	133,895.52	117,636.00	77,315.34	40,320.66	36,577.28	3,743.38	0.00	85.1%
Title	3	TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT EXPENDITURE	1,076,000.00	1,075,800.01	717,215.68	358,584.33	302,501.29	56,083.04	0.00	94.8%
Chapter	31	Programme Support Expenditure	1,076,000.00	1,075,800.01	717,215.68	358,584.33	302,501.29	56,083.04	0.00	94.8%
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR PAYMENTS										
			2019	2020	Total					
Amount paid			680,865.09	29,450,558.03	30,131,423.12					
Number of Payments requests (*)			145	241	379					
Net time to pay			7.2	9.3	8.5					
% of payments on time			100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %					

(*) 7 Payments were made on 2019 and 2020 budget at the same time

1. Title 1 'Staff expenditure'

Budgetary execution under Title 1 stood at EUR 25,770,417 and included the remuneration, allowances and charges of 312 temporary and contract agents (EUR 24,069,673), as well as interims and trainees working in the Agency in 2020 (EUR 264,247) under Chapter 11 and the accompanying socio, medical and training expenditure (EUR 1,436,497) under Chapter 12.

Under Chapter 12:

- training amounted to EUR 194,091 and included general, IT and language trainings, as well as specific training on several subjects;
- medical expenses related to Staff annual check-ups and check-ups before recruitment, amounted to EUR 122,550;
- administration of staff expenditure related to the services provided by PMO to determine the on-entry and on-exit rights of staff, insurance and management of entitlements as well as the cost of the use of SYSPER2, support with appraisals, promotions/reclassification modules provided by DG HR amounted to EUR 378,612;
- the main part of social expenditures was related to the “Centre de la Petite Enfance” (CPE) and school transport costs for Staff children for an amount of EUR 570,999, while the other social expenditures amounted to EUR 148,878.

2. Title 2 'Infrastructure and operating expenditure'

Budgetary execution under Title 2 stood at EUR 4,310,680.

- under Chapter 21 “Building expenditure”, costs included the rent related to the building leased by the Agency for an amount of EUR 1,885,952, as well as all associated charges for the building for an amount of EUR 1,182,000.
- under Chapter 22 “ICT expenditures”, costs related to the provision of the basic IT infrastructure, network and telecommunication services provided by DG DIGIT amounted to EUR 481,723, as well as included the purchase of hardware and software for an amount of EUR 479,518.
- under Chapter 23 “Movable property and current operating expenditure” costs were covering the usual logistical needs of the Agency for an amount of EUR 169,486.

3. Title 3 'Programme Support expenditure'

Budgetary execution under Title 3 stood at EUR 830,556, and was divided between communication activities, missions, operational related IT expenditure and outsourced audits.

Under Chapter 31 “Programmes’ Support Expenditures”:

- communication activities, events and other programme's support expenditure mainly covered organisational costs for the Info-days related to calls for proposals, conferences and seminars, financial contributions to professional fairs as well as translations for

operational documents, press releases, and legal translations for an amount of EUR 235,279;

- shortly after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, all missions were cancelled, reducing their numbers to around 100 compared to around 500 missions in 2019; therefore the budget was also reduced to EUR 60,000; the purpose of missions was to attend kick-off and progress meetings, to promote calls for proposals and to perform ex-post audit checks, only in the first few weeks on 2020;
- operational related IT expenditure covered the contracts of the IT developers dealing with software related to the CEF programme for an amount of EUR 374,489;
- the cost of outsourced audits was EUR 176,666 and included 26 audits.

CONCLUSION

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic for most of the year 2020, INEA continued to implement its administrative budget with the objectives of optimisation and cost-effectiveness in mind. It quickly reacted to the sudden change of environment and adapted its budget accordingly to stay fully operational while most staff worked remotely.

INEA continued to implement its Work Programme without delay while keeping high quality outputs and recruiting the relevant profiles to accompany its growth.

The budget implementation remained at a high level with almost 100% committed (99.76%) and 95% paid. The outturn for the 2019 budget was also quite high with nearly 99% of the budget paid over 2019 and 2020, showing the commitment of the Agency to manage its budget in the most efficient way.

As the new MFF rolls out from 2021, the Agency will change its mandate and will have a sharp increase in size and budget. It will pursue its efforts in the same direction, for a timely and efficient implementation of its administrative budget.