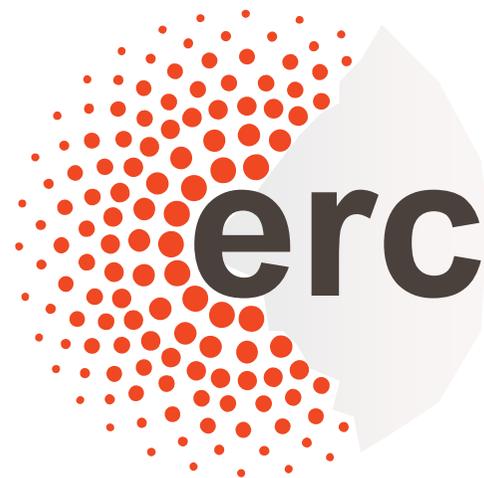


ERCEA grant management under COVID-19- AMENDMENTS

Veronica Williams
Legal Adviser

NCP event
13th November 2020



Definition of amendment

Art 55 ERC GA



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Legal act modifying the commitments initially accepted by the parties

- Creating new rights and obligations on contracting parties and / or third parties
- The amended provisions become an integral part of the GA
- All other provisions remain unchanged and with full effect

Limits to an amendment



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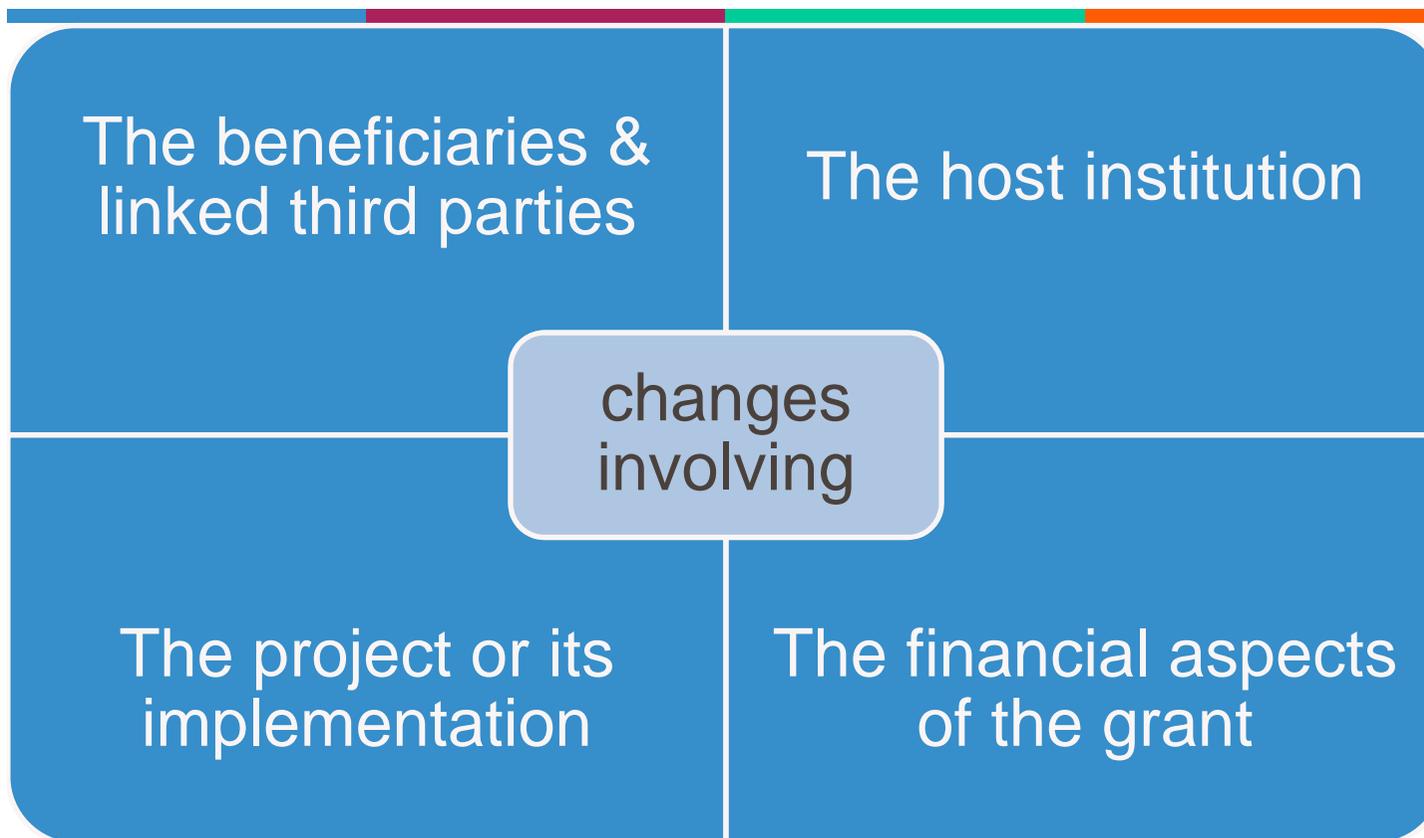
Amendments might not result in changes that would have had an impact on the award decision.

- Against eligibility and selection criteria (*e.g. ethical aspects*)
- Against equal treatment of applicants (*e.g. PI not hosted by HI*)
- Modifications in the action and/or budget which may have affected the assessment (*e.g. objectives, methodology*)
- Changes not compliant with the framework regulations or the GA provisions

Amendments are necessary when



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Changes involving the financial aspects of the GA



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Overall principle - flexibility in budget management

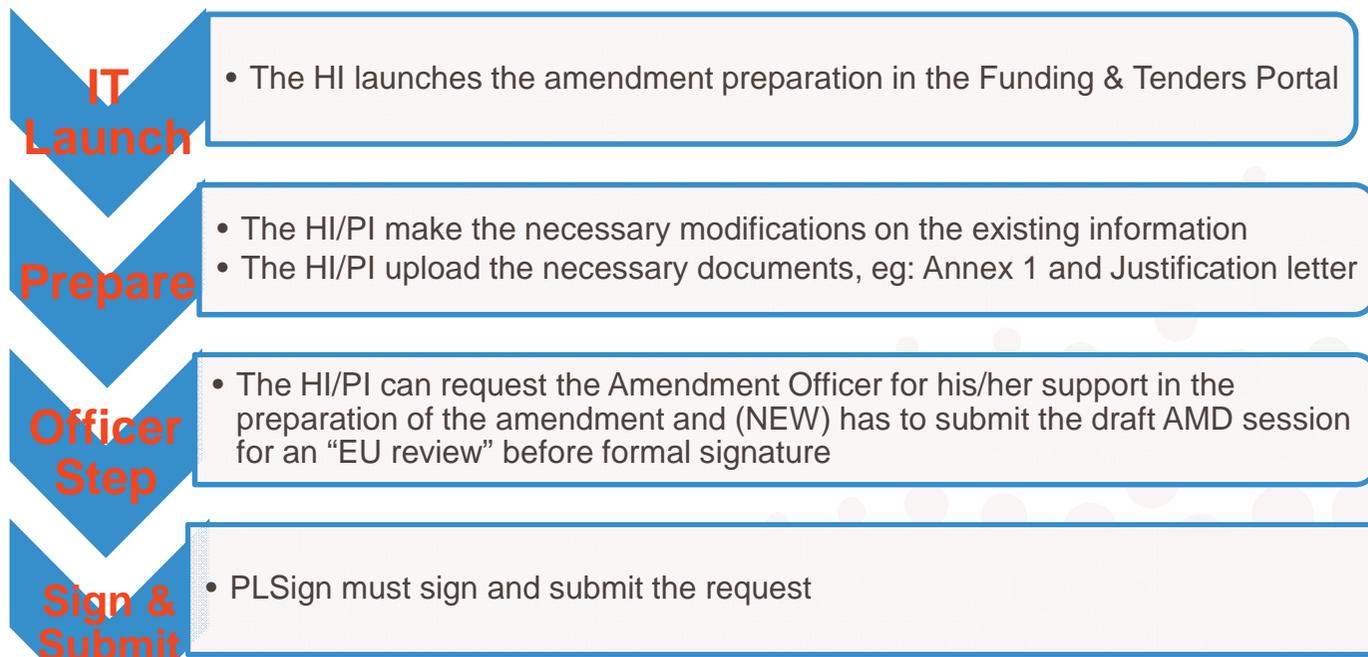
for as long as the project is implemented as per Annex 1 - DoA:

Budget transfers and re-allocation	Amendment needed?
From one beneficiary to another	NO
From one budget category to another	NO
Between forms of costs within the direct personnel costs budget category	NO (new)
Addition/removal of tasks in Annex 1	YES
Re-allocation of tasks in Annex 1	YES
New subcontracts, new in-kind contributions	YES (strongly advised)

Steps of an amendment to GA



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I. Amendment to Grant Agreements

→ Assessment & decision by the Agency



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After submission of request the receiving party has **45 days for 'evaluation and validation'**

Withdrawal

Agreement

Rejection

Exceptionally: Request for revision (NEW)

Extension of the deadline for assessment

If no reaction within deadline, tacit rejection

Amendments due to the impact of COVID-19



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Simplified procedure for AMD requests induced by COVID
to the **action's starting date** and **to extend the duration**
(6-month extension)
without modification of the Description of Action

Characteristics:

- The COVID induced extensions can be claimed at all moments, during the life time of the grant, yet preferably after midterm report
- Extensions can be combined with other types of extensions such as scientific/personal circumstances
- The Agency might initiate the amendment request if the HI/PI experiences difficulties

COVID-19 – FORCE MAJEURE



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Maximum flexibility under H2020 ERC MGA rules to alleviate the consequences of the COVID-19 epidemic on the PIs

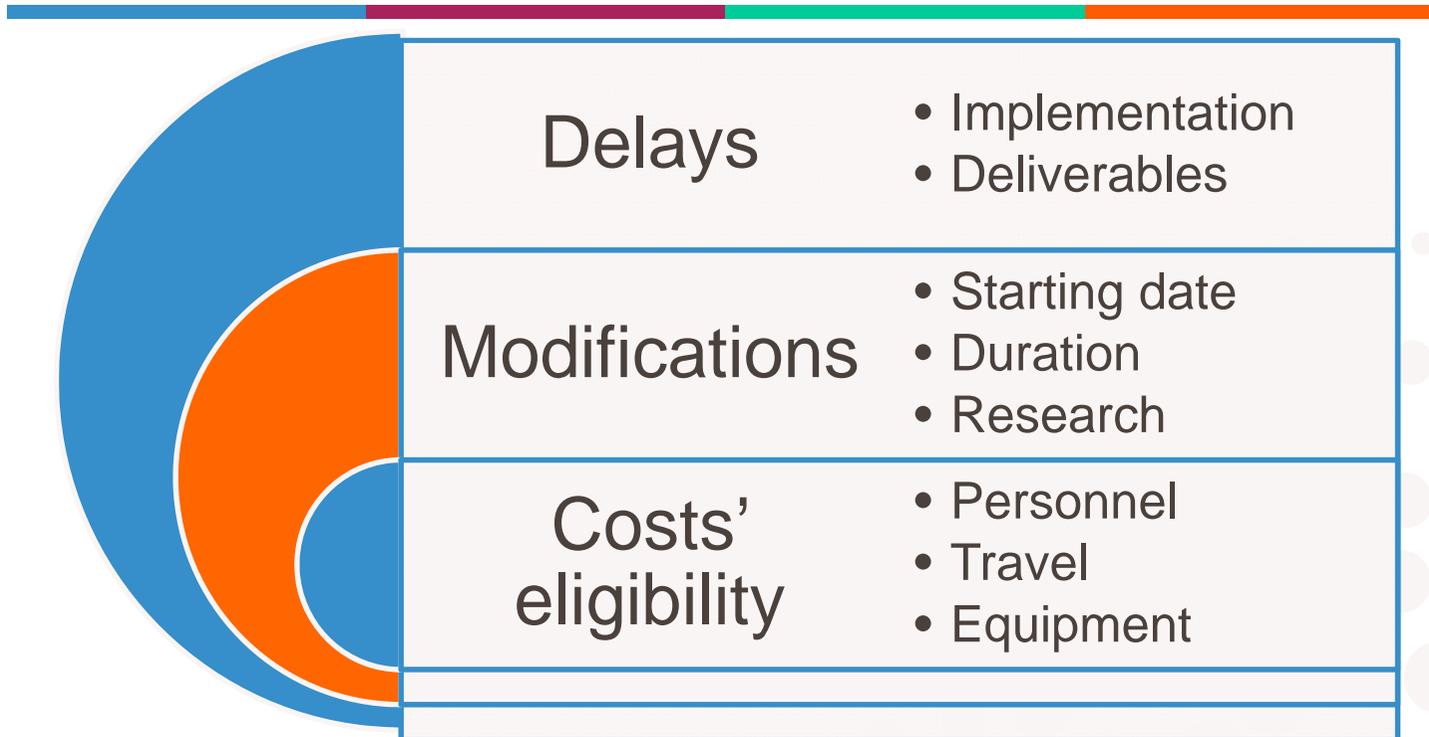


Beneficiaries must try to immediately inform the Agency

COVID-19 and H2020 ERC GA



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FLEXIBILITY IN CASE OF DELAYS DUE TO COVID-19



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Delays in granting ?

- Flexibility for a later starting date.

Delays in implementation ?

- Flexibility in the implementation of the action when impacted by the confinement. Extension of duration.

Delays in reporting?

- Flexibility on the 60 days period for submission of the reports.
- **For final payments:** exceptionally, possibility to add a new interim period to reimburse up to 90%.

AMENDMENTS DUE TO THE IMPACT OF COVID-19



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New start date

- Only if start date in the future (no work has started yet)
- Set a fixed date later in the future

Extensions

- Up to 6 months: handled favorably and in a speedy manner.
- Beyond the 6 month: case-by-case assessment

Reorientation of the research

- To tackle COVID-19 crisis
- Assessment on a case-by-case basis

ERCEA has put in place a simplified process for certain type of amendments:

- Change of action's starting date (up to 01/01/2021)
- Change of action's duration (6-month extension)

AMENDMENTS DUE TO THE IMPACT OF COVID-19



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AMENDMENTS DUE TO THE IMPACT OF COVID-19



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Change proposed	Is an AMD needed?
Shift of action tasks from tasks where physical presence is needed on the ground (e.g. experiments/lab work, etc.) to remote work (desk work, drafting of reports, etc.) during confinement period	No
Budget shifts between cost categories or beneficiaries to address the consequences of COVID-19, for as long as the action is implemented as per Annex 1	No
Change in annual productive hours for calculating personnel costs from Options 1 or 3 to Option 2	No
Request to introduce an additional interim period	Yes
Delay of starting date Extension of action duration	Yes
Reorientation of the action to contribute to tackling the COVID-19 crisis	Yes

COST ELIGIBILITY: FLEXIBILITY DUE TO COVID-19 IMPACT



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Travel

- Flight / hotel / meeting room cancellation costs are eligible

Equipment

- Exclusively used for the action: full depreciation costs eligible even if not used
- Not used exclusively for the action: unused periods not taken into account

Personnel

- Hours worked in teleworking mode are eligible (even if it is not the beneficiary's usual practice)
- PIs should ensure effective supervision of the team whilst teleworking

SUMMARY



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**Maximum flexibility by ERCEA
within the H2020 MGA**

USEFUL INFORMATION



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- Funding and tenders opportunities portal

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

- COVID-19 FAQs

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/faq?type=1;categories=;programme=H2020;actions=;keyword=COVID-19%20outbreak>

- Centralised Amendment mailbox

ERC-C2-amendments@ec.europa.eu

- KEY contact person, the project officer:

Name.surname@ec.europa.eu