

**CROATIAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

Ilica 24, Zagreb

**AGREED UPON PROCEDURES REPORT ON FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE  
"EXCELLENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM – TENURE TRACK PILOT PROGRAM"  
FINAL PERIOD (2023 AND 2024)**

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**CROATIAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

Ilica 24  
Zagreb

**Subject: Agreed upon procedures report on financial information for the "Excellence in higher education program – Tenure Track Pilot Program", final period (2023 and 2024)**

**Responsibility of the CROATIAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

The CROATIAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION (engaging party) (hereinafter: "CSF") has confirmed that the agreed procedures are appropriate for the purpose of the engagement.

**Responsibility of Moore Audit Croatia d.o.o.**

We have conducted the agreed-upon procedures engagement in accordance with the International Standard on Related Services (ISRS) 4400 (Revised), Agreed-Upon Procedures Engagements. An agreed-upon procedures engagement involves our performing the procedures that have been agreed with CSF, and reporting the findings, which are the factual results of the agreed-upon procedures performed. We make no representation regarding the appropriateness of the agreed-upon procedures.

This agreed-upon procedures engagement is not an assurance engagement. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion or an assurance conclusion.

Our work is based on the documentation received from CSF. All other information obtained from public sources is considered reliable, and Moore Audit Croatia d.o.o. (hereinafter: "Auditor") has exercised due diligence in verifying their accuracy and correctness, which it relies upon.

All necessary steps have been taken to ensure that the factual statements are correct and that the conclusions drawn are accurate. All opinions and assessments include the Auditor's judgment at this moment, based on good faith.

This report has been prepared based on the available financial and other information received. However, it is important to emphasize that we assume that all publicly disclosed data, as well as all statements and explanations, are true, accurate, and complete.

**Responsibility of Moore Audit Croatia d.o.o. (continued)**

Although we believe that all relevant documents have been presented, we cannot be entirely certain that there is no document, contract, or decision that is valid and potentially important for our work, which, if presented or discovered, could change our conclusions.

We believe that all collected and processed data are sufficient for making decisions while minimizing future risks.

Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported.

**Professional Ethics and Quality Control**

We have complied with the ethical requirements in Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants ("IESBA Code") issued by IFAC. For the purpose of this engagement, there are no independence requirements that we are obliged to follow.

Our firm applies International Standard on Quality Management (ISQM) 1, Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements, and accordingly, maintains a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

**Report on Factual Findings**

We have performed the procedures described below, which were agreed upon with you, as outlined below, on financial information for the "Excellence Programme in Higher Education – Tenure Track Pilot Program" final period (2023 and 2024), prepared by CSF.

The report has been prepared for the purpose of submitting the final report by CSF in accordance with the Project Agreement (Class: 910-04/17-0116, Reg. No.: 538-17-99), signed between the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds on July 10, 2017, including its signed amendments (hereinafter: the "Agreement").

We have conducted the agreed-upon procedures engagement in accordance with the International Standard on Related Services (ISRS) 4400 (Revised), Agreed-Upon Procedures Engagements regarding financial information. The procedures were carried out solely for the purpose of examining and evaluating the financial information for the final period (2023 and 2024) of the "Excellence Programme in Higher Education – Tenure Track Pilot Program" (hereinafter: the "Project") and the inclusion in this Report of previously issued Reports on agreed procedures regarding financial information for the "Excellence Programme in Higher Education – Tenure Track Pilot Program" for the years: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, which were issued by other auditors.

**Report on Factual Findings (continued)**

The agreed-upon procedures applied include the following:

1. Determining whether all costs are eligible and directly related to the subject of the Agreement as specified in the Project budget,
2. Determining whether the costs were incurred within the eligible financing period,
3. Determining whether the costs are justified and in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, particularly in terms of value for money, cost efficiency, and compliance with the allowed maximum amounts per cost categories,
4. Determining whether the costs were incurred by the beneficiary and supported by invoices compliant with generally accepted accounting principles and applicable tax and social regulations,
5. Verifying whether the costs are identifiable and can be checked and supported by original supporting documents,
6. Determining whether travel, accommodation, and per diem costs are in accordance with the beneficiary's usual practice and legal regulations regarding travel expenses,
7. Determining whether costs for equipment (procurement, maintenance, upgrades) have been incurred in compliance with the call rules and the project budget,
8. Providing recommendations for strengthening the control system,
9. Reporting any actual or suspected fraud or irregularities,
10. To include this Report of previously issued Reports on agreed procedures regarding financial information for the "Excellence Programme in Higher Education – Tenure Track Pilot Program" for the years: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, which were issued by other auditors.

**Factual Findings**

- Regarding point 1, we determined that the reviewed costs for 2023. and 2024. in the total amount of EUR 381.004,96 are eligible and directly related to the subject of the Agreement and the Project budget.
- Regarding point 2, we confirmed that the costs were incurred within the eligible financing period. We note that in the Interim Report for 2024, in the section "Executive summary on intervention until the end of the reporting period," the principle of entering amounts into the columns of this Interim Report is explained, with a focus on the explanation of amounts in the column "Incurred costs in this reporting period."
- Regarding point 3, we determined that the costs are justified and in line with the principles of sound financial management, particularly in terms of value for money, cost efficiency, and compliance with the allowed maximum amounts per cost categories, as defined in the Agreement and Project budget.
- Regarding point 4, we confirmed that the costs were incurred by the beneficiary and supported by invoices compliant with generally accepted accounting principles and applicable tax and social regulations.
- Regarding point 5, we confirm that the costs are identifiable and can be checked and supported by original supporting documents.
- Regarding point 6, we determined that travel, accommodation, and per diem costs are in accordance with the beneficiary's usual practice and legal regulations regarding travel expenses.
- Regarding point 7, we determined that costs for equipment (procurement, maintenance, upgrades) have been incurred in compliance with the call rules and the project budget.
- Regarding point 8, no significant weaknesses in the control system were observed.
- Regarding point 9, no such cases were identified.
- Regarding point 10, we confirm that the following audit reports issued by other audit firms cover the Project implementation period from 2017 to 2022, that in these reports the auditor confirmed that the reviewed costs were eligible and directly linked to the subject matter of the Agreement and Project budget and that the costs were incurred in the period eligible for financing.
  - Independent Auditor's Report on Factual Findings dated 25 February 2019 issued by Revizija Kutleša d.o.o., Zagreb, covering the Project financial statements for 2017 and 2018. The costs reported in these financial statements total CHF 19.320,76 (HRK 132.972,28).

**Factual Findings (continued)**

- Independent Auditor's Report on Factual Findings dated 15 February 2021 issued by Alpha Audit d.o.o., Zagreb, covering the Project's financial statements for 2019 and 2020. The costs reported in these financial statements total CHF 2.335.093,17 (HRK 16.070.933,21).
- Independent Auditor's Report on Factual Findings dated 15 February 2023 issued by Alpha Audit d.o.o., Zagreb, covering the Project's financial statements for 2021 and 2022. The costs reported in these financial statements total CHF 1.705.995,61 (HRK 11.741.262,38).
- Based on this conclusion, we confirm that the Project costs for the entire Project implementation period from 2017 to 2024, in the total amount of EUR 3.405.929,56, are eligible and directly related to the subject matter of the Agreement and Project budget, and that the costs were incurred in the period eligible for financing.

**Defined Framework**

The procedures we performed do not constitute an audit or review in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA) or International Standards on Review Engagements (ISRE), and we do not express any assurance.

This factual findings report is solely for the use of CSF and for submission in accordance with the Project Agreement.

This report relates only to the Project's financial statements for 2023 and 2024 and not to CSF's financial statements as a legal entity.

Zagreb, December 24, 2024

Moore Audit Croatia d.o.o.  
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Marko Dvorski, President of  
the management board  
Darko Karić, certified auditor

**APPENDIX****PROJECT FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR 2023 AND 2024**