



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
RESEARCH EXECUTIVE AGENCY

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks
Head of Unit

Brussels,
REA.A1/KGB

Subject: Interpretation of sick leave rules in Horizon 2020 projects

Dear Coordinator,

The [Annotated Grant Agreement](#) (AGA) version 4.1, published on 26.10.2017, clarifies that in ITN projects "*periods in which a researcher was absent for more than 30 days (for reasons other than annual leave) can NOT be charged to the action (and must be removed from the financial statement, by changing the researcher declaration)*" (see page 425). This applies also to sick leave of more than 30 days.

Please note that the purpose of the information provided in the AGA is to explain the provisions of the Model Grant Agreement (MGA); it cannot modify the meaning of the legal text that it is deemed to clarify, and therefore any explanation on an article of the MGA is applicable as of the date of adoption of that article.

However, since the eligibility of costs (entirely or partially) incurred in periods of sick leave is not explicitly mentioned in the MGA (it rather stems from the general cost eligibility conditions), the Agency will apply this rule in the context of MSCA as of the date of publication of the AGA.v.4.1. The previously communicated interpretation of the rule as regards the eligibility of costs during sick leave in ITN projects, which was based on a pro-rata calculation¹ may be applied to events occurred until the date of publication of the AGA v. 4.1.

In case you were requested to modify your Researcher's Declaration before 26 October 2017 in order to comply with the new methodology, we would like to offer you the option to recalculate the costs related to sick leave using the pro-rata approach. Should you wish to proceed in this manner, please contact your Project Officer.

Please be reminded that for any event of absence occurred after the date of publication of the AGA v.4.1., the 30 days rule strictly applies.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Klaus-Günther BARTHEL

¹ For short-term leave (<=1 month): the unit is 100% eligible.

For long-term leave (> 1 month) the following is applied:

- For the period that employer has to pay 100% of fellow's salary per national law, the unit is 100% eligible;
- For the period that employer has to pay a percentage (e.g. 50%) of fellow's salary per national law, the unit is 50% eligible;
- For the period that employer does not have to pay the fellow's salary per national law, the researcher's activity in the action is suspended.