Potential savings arising from the simplification and adaptation of Article 20 to Interreg reality

MA/JS:

- staff resources: **1 full time equivalent (FTE)**
- estimated direct costs related to projects' state aid assessment performed by external experts: **EUR 15 000 – 20 000 per year**

Projects:

- projects applied in the call for proposals (both approved and rejected) in which indirect aid was detected: 5-10 person days/1 project (include working time spent on gaining knowledge and getting acquainted with relevant regulation, collecting de minimis declarations from the recipient of the aid, issuing certificates on aid granted, etc.). In the 1 call for proposals there were 8 projects with indirect aid related activities. Assuming 2 calls for proposals per year it gives **80-160 person days per year;**
- projects applied in the call for proposals (both approved and rejected) in which de minimis or state aid was detected: 5 person days/1 project (include working time spent on gaining knowledge and getting acquainted with relevant regulation, filling in de minimis / state aid declarations, etc.). In the 1 call for proposals there were 4 projects with de minimis / direct aid related activities. Assuming 2 calls for proposals per year it gives **40 person days per year.**

Other advantages:

- less administrative burden on the Programme bodies as well as on the applicants (the whole partners' consortium);
- gaining legal certainty during project preparation and implementation – interpretation of state aid low differs significantly among experts across the Europe;
- current provisions of state aid law limit the number of partners eligible for funding from the South Baltic Programme (due to exceeding the EUR 200 000 threshold of the received de minimis aid)