

Enhancing the ODA reporting capacities and systems of EU
Member States

EU DEVFIN

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

7 October 2014



This project is funded by
European Union

Frequently Asked Questions

1. One user of the database cannot modify fields 21-31 at supplementary data page, actually the fields are greyed out, other users from different agencies are able to do so. Why?

Supplementary pages fields are greyed out when a specific type of aid is selected in field 13. For instance in the case of scholarship the user should not fill up most of fields in the supplementary data page. This is a DCA rule and the greying out feature for these cases was requested at a request of a Member State to avoid wrong data input.

2. How shall we proceed with the transfer of data from 2013 CRS to 2014 advance questionnaire and CRS++? The majority of projects will remain, just amounts will be different.

This is simple: go to '+Transaction> Aggregate transaction' menu; select the ID number of the 2013 CRS transaction which you want to reuse; when it appears in the list below the page click 'Re-use' under the Action column; select the correct AQ input form; revise the data fields in the obtained input form and you are done.

3. when we fill in all the data for the advance questionnaire how shall we transfer them into the CRS ++ questionnaire? All projects that we will report for the advance questionnaire will be reported for CRS++ questionnaire, only the amounts might be adjusted.

Same procedures as in question no.2. There is also an alternative: you can use the CRS++ input form to produce both the Advance Questionnaire report, the CRS++ report and the DAC Tables. So if you have enough information about all transactions at the beginning of the year you can use the CRS++ input form for all the reports (excluding the FSS). We believe that in this way you will save time. Caveat: to ensure consistency all agencies need to use the same input form to generate the Advance Questionnaire (either the Advance Questionnaire input form or the CRS++ input form). MoFA as administrator of the system has to provide instructions on this choice before data entry.

4. Can you please remind me the procedure of approval within different agencies followed afterwards by the approval of MoFA?

The Team Leader in the Agency will have to tick the box 'Approved- Yes' at the end of the screen in each transaction. If she has done so already and you at MoFA judge the transaction is correctly represented, she has to do nothing. If she has to do corrections based on your comments she has to edit the transaction in question (action to be found in the list of transaction) and do the editing before re-approving it.

5. We noted that is impossible to leave empty (delete) the field donor project number once we tried to enter the number and saved.

The ID donor project number is a mandatory field. If you want to eliminate the mandatory requirements, your IT could do that once they have received the software codes. This will be part of the customization that each country can do with its software.

6. I am not sure about the inclusion of the CPA as an category in our context of reporting. The concept CPA is not introduced within the existing CRS++ guidelines.

You can get more info about CPA at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/aid-architecture/cpa.htm> . The definition which you will find there (among other useful resources) is:

‘CPA is a subset of ODA outflows. It takes as a starting point data on gross ODA disbursements by recipient but excludes spending which is: (1) inherently unpredictable (such as humanitarian aid and debt relief); or (2) entails no flows to the recipient country (administration, student costs, development awareness and research and refugee spending in donor countries); or (3) is usually not discussed between the main donor agency and recipient governments (food aid, aid from local governments, core funding to international NGOs, aid through secondary agencies, ODA equity investments and aid which is not allocable by country). Finally, (4), CPA does not net out loan repayments, as these are not usually factored into aid allocation decisions. CPA, in short, tracks the portion of aid on which recipient countries have, or could have, a significant say and for which donors should be accountable for delivering “as programmed”.’

If you are not sure about collecting data by CPA, you can instruct users to leave the CPA box unchecked.

7. There is the “message” item (next to the “Admin” item) – the messages can be send to the admin or I as the admin can manage on my own to whom goes the messages?

Through the ‘message’ item is any user can contact other user(s). For example the MoFA Administrator should use this function for sending reminders to team leaders and eventually inform them of required changes to transactions in case of errors and omissions.

8. What is the real difference between “organizations” and “groups”?

Organizations can have several groups. For instance the Ministry of Defence can have a group for each military mission abroad (Iraq, Afghanistan etc.). We suggest to have groups to coincide with organizations at an early stage of software adoption but the choice is yours.

9. Why does the software only create tables DAC1 and DAC 2a and not all other DAC tables especially not DAC 4 and validation table?

EU DEVFIN creates the DAC tables 1 and 2a together with the Advance Questionnaire and the ODA at a glance because these were the reports which the Member States participating in the project are currently producing or are planning to produce in the near future. The needs of other Member States are more complex but deserve attention for a possible phase 2 of the project. Technically there would be no problem to expand the Report menu of the EU DEVFIN to additional reports.

10. If you click on OOF you can also among others find private flows. This is a bit misleading since private flows are a separate type of flow according to DAC classification and should not be categorized as Other Official Flows.

The point above is technically correct. Private Flows is not part of OOF. EU DEVFIN correctly accounts for this separation in the report DAC 1 table: the section III on Private Flows is separate from Section II, OOF. The fact that the Private Flows is part of the OOF submenu in the choice of input forms to add a transaction was made to simplify the approach for the Member States: it is either ODA or non-ODA.