

Intensive Online Course

Simplified Cost Options for EU Funds: Transitioning from 2014-2020 to 2021-2027

09 – 11 March 2021

Experts (among others)

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The three-day intensive online course focuses on:

Day 1 – Rules, Methodology and Calculation Methods of SCO for EU Funds

- Regulatory framework and principles of SCO 2014-2020 versus 2021-2027
- Calculation methods: Flat-rate financing, standard scales of unit costs and lump sums
- Exercises and practical group work on calculation methods

Day 2 – How to Establish the Methodology for Using SCO in your Programmes and Projects

- Implementing SCO: Considerations for Managing Authorities and Intermediate Bodies, for Responsible and Delegated Authorities, for beneficiaries
- Recommendations for a successful use of SCO in your Operational Programmes
- Setting up simplified cost models for ERDF projects, ESF projects, Migration and Security Funds projects

Day 3 – Verification and Audit of Simplified Cost Options

- First-level control & verification of SCO
- How to avoid errors and irregularities when using SCO
- Audit of SCO
- New mandatory requirement: Ex-ante assessment of SCO's methodology

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General Information

Overview

The proposal for a Common Provisions Regulation for the new programming period **2021-2027 extended the use of Simplified Cost Options (SCO)**. According to Article 48 of the amended proposal, the contribution provided to the beneficiary from **the ERDF, the ESF+, the JTF, the AMIF, the ISF and the BMVI shall mandatory take the form of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates**, for all the projects under EUR 200.000. Therefore, public officials from Managing, Responsible, Delegated, Audit Authorities and Intermediate Bodies, but also beneficiaries, need to learn about the new requirements and how to adapt their working methods and procedures to this simplified method in compliance with eligibility rules and regularity of expenditures.

Methodology

The three-day intensive course offers the possibility to **meet with experts from EU institutions, Member States as well as the private sector**. The different perspectives of our experienced trainers will support you in **applying complex rules to your practical day-to-day work**. To achieve the best results, a mix of learning methods will be applied in the course.

Our approach combines the **three stages of learning** to ensure that the participants **obtain the best possible understanding of the applied rules**:

- 1) Identification of the main rules and principles,
- 2) Appreciation of the complexities and limitation of the principles,
- 3) Application of the rules and principles.

The **participants will be actively involved in the course**. The sessions will combine **presentations, case studies and discussion on practical problems**. You will have ample opportunity to present your own issues and discuss them with the speakers and participants from other Member States.

Just **send to us your cases and questions in advance!** We will forward them to our speakers, who will include your issues in the programme and answer them during the course. All information concerning such problems and cases will be treated confidentially.

Target Group

- Representatives from public authorities in charge of financial management, control and audit, especially from
 - Managing Authorities
 - Responsible Authorities
 - Intermediate Bodies
 - Delegated Authorities
 - Certifying Authorities
 - Audit Authorities
 - Regional and local authorities
 - Court of Auditors
- Beneficiaries of EU funded projects, i.e.: Private and public companies, associations, research institutes
- Bodies working in European Territorial Cooperation
- Public and private banks and other financial intermediaries
- International, national and local associations and networks
- Consultants and lawyers

**Day 1: Rules, Methodology and Calculation
Methods of SCO for EU Funds**

09:30 Welcome Note and Introduction Round

10:00 Simplified Cost Options: Regulatory Framework and Principles

- Why use Simplified Cost Options: Focus on output and results
- Methodology and principles of SCO
- Fund-specific rules and national rules
- Extended EU-level options and off-the shelf SCO
- How the Omnibus regulation changed SCO
- Application of Art. 14.1 & Delegated Acts
- Draft proposals for 2021-2027

Louis Vervloet, General Director, ESF Agency Flanders, Member of the High Level Group for Simplification, Brussels

11:15 Coffee Break

11:30 Overview on Calculation Methods for Simplified Cost Options

- Use of existing EU schemes or existing own national schemes
- Use of specific rates and methods from the CPR and Fund specific regulations
- Introduction into the calculation methods: flat-rate financing, standard scales of unit costs and lump sums
- Ex ante evaluation
- Combination of cost options

Louis Vervloet, General Director, ESF Agency Flanders, Member of the High Level Group for Simplification, Brussels

12:30 Lunch Break

**13:00 Flat-rate Financing:
How to Apply & Practical Examples**

- Categories of costs and rates applied
- Calculation methods for indirect costs
- How do you calculate staff costs?
- Fund-specific rules
- Examples of flat-rates

Louis Vervloet, General Director, ESF Agency Flanders, Member of the High Level Group for Simplification, Brussels

13:45 Principles & Practical Examples for Standard Scales of Unit Costs & Lump Sums

- General principles
- When to apply and how to calculate?
- How do you calculate staff costs?
- Lump sums: Definition of milestones
- Limits of the use of lump sums
- Examples of unit costs and lump sums

Louis Vervloet, General Director, ESF Agency Flanders, Member of the High Level Group for Simplification, Brussels

14:30 End of Day 1



Day 2: How to Establish the Methodology for Using SCO in your Programmes and Projects

09:30 **Considerations for Managing Authorities and Intermediate Bodies, for Responsible and Delegated Authorities, for Beneficiaries**

- Why use SCO: perspective from the MA/RA, Intermediate Body/Delegated Authority
- How to develop a Simplified cost model: Steps, negotiations, and institutions involved
- How to work together with the European Commission
- Step-by-step guidance on how to implement flat-rates, unit costs and lump sums
- Developing and implementing a result-oriented approach
- The 3P-Model: 3 main processes of structuring organisations
- Benefits and risks of using SCO
- National experiences and expert guidance: Discussion and exchange of experiences

Luca Santin, Expert for EU Structural Funds, Italy

10:30 Coffee break

10:45 **Best Practice and Recommendations for a Successful Use of Simplified Cost Models in Operational Programmes**

Work in breakout rooms:

Receive guidance and recommendations on the most relevant approaches, actions and operative solutions adopted by Managing Authorities. Become familiar with the change management process due to the SCO implementation.

Luca Santin, Expert for EU Structural Funds, Italy

11:45 Lunch Break

12:15 **Setting up Simplified Cost Models for ESF Projects (incl. practical exercises in breakout rooms)**

Luca Santin, Expert for EU Structural Funds, Italy

13:15 Short Break

13:20 **Setting up Simplified Cost Models for ERDF Projects (incl. practical exercises in breakout rooms)**

Alina Ploae, Counsellor in the Managing Authority for Romania-Serbia IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme and INTERREG IPA Cross border Cooperation Romania Serbia Programme, Directorate -MA for European Territorial Cooperation Programmes

14:20 Short break

14:30 **Setting up Simplified Cost Models for AMIF/ISF/BMVI Projects (incl. practical exercises in breakout rooms)**

Krasimir Nikolov, Chief Internal Auditor in the Audit Authority at the Ministry of Interior, Bulgaria

15:30 End of Day 2



Day 3: Verification and Audit of Simplified Cost Options

09:30 **First-Level Control & Verification of Simplified
Cost Options (incl. practical exercises in breakout
rooms)**

- How to verify SCO and what needs to be verified
- Eligible Costs using SCO
- Compliance of SCO with State aid and public procurement
- Requirements for financial reporting

Alina Ploae, Counsellor in the Managing Authority for Romania-Serbia IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme and INTERREG IPA Cross border Cooperation Romania Serbia Programme, Directorate -MA for European Territorial Cooperation Programmes

11:15 Coffee break

11:30 **How to Avoid Errors and Irregularities when Using
SCO?**

Alina Ploae, Counsellor in the Managing Authority for Romania-Serbia IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme and INTERREG IPA Cross border Cooperation Romania Serbia Programme, Directorate -MA for European Territorial Cooperation Programmes

12:15 Lunch Break

12:45 **Audit of Simplified Cost Options**

- Requirements for Audit Authority
- Audit approach for assessment of SCO's methodology
- Audit approach for expenditure – application of methodology
- Other considerations: eligibility rules, public, procurement and State aid rules

Olga Guza, Deputy Director of EU Funds Audit Department, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Latvia

14:00 Coffee Break

14:15 **Ex-ante Assessment of SCO's Methodology**

- Mandatory element in 2021-2027
- Audit methodology
- Latvian practice
- Cooperation between Managing Authority and Audit Authority

Olga Guza, Deputy Director of EU Funds Audit Department, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Latvia

15:00 End of the Interactive Online Course



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Questions & Answers

Zoom is our interactive online course platform. In order to join our course, please check your device compatibility first.

What do you need in order to join the online course?

- ✓ Speakers, Microphone; Camera is possible, if you would like to be seen during the course.
- ✓ A wired connection is strongly recommended.
- ✓ If your internet connection doesn't work, you can join the course by telephone, using a dial-in number. In this case there might be additional telephone costs.

How to join the online course?

- ✓ Choose the computer from which you would like to follow the course.
- ✓ Please [install](#) the zoom, if not done yet
- ✓ Please [test](#) your microphone and camera in advance
- ✓ Open the Zoom App, click on "Join a Meeting", enter your full name, so that we could recognise you, enter the ID and the Passcode, which we sent you, and wait in the waiting room, until our host will let you in.
- ✓ Alternatively, it is possible to use Zoom through browser or through skype for business. BUT! Some functions are not available in these versions, therefore we highly recommend using the downloaded App
- ✓ Use your headset and camera.

Minimum system requirements are as follows:

- ✓ **Operating System:** Windows 7 or later; Mac OS X 10.12 or later, Linux.
- ✓ **Browser:** The most recently-published versions of Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge, Safari, or Opera.
- ✓ **High-speed internet:** A consistent, high-speed connection is required. Mobile tethering, hotspots, slow or inconsistent public Wi-Fi networks may create latency when using video conferencing.

FAQ

Why do I need to enter my name before the course starts?

Thank you for registering! This not only helps us to communicate with you in regard to technical issues but it helps you to network with your fellow course participants

Will the course be recorded?

Please ask the responsible event manager.

Do I need a camera?

It is recommended to have a camera for more comfortable communication with the speakers and other participants.

Do I need a microphone?

Since this is an interactive online course, yes.

Do I need to install anything?

Yes, you should install [Zoom app](#)

Can I ask questions during the course?

Yes, you can ask your questions live by using your microphone. You can speak to all participants at the same time as you may have experienced in Skype.

When can I enter the course I'm attending?

Please enter Zoom 10 minutes before start. Our host will let you in in due time.

May I leave the course and come back later?

Yes, just log in at a later time during the course.

May I access via Phone?

Yes, you can. Participating via phone means you can listen only..

Can't find invitation?

Please check your spam-folder. You should also ask your colleague from the IT department to 'whitelist' us. For more details please ask the corresponding conference manager, who will be happy to help you.

What are the detailed System requirements?

All requirements can be found [here](#).

I failed the Audio Output System Test – what can I do?

If you are using headphones or external speakers, try unplugging them. Please unmute your device. Test your speakers [here](#) to find out if they work.

I would like to participate but I'm waiting for an approval.

Can I order a ticket on the day of the course?

Sure. Please message events@lexxion.eu.

My email address has changed – can I still participate?

Sure. Please provide us with your updated email address; you will then receive a new invitation.

How do I contact the host of the course?

events@lexxion.eu is happy to help you.

Registration

Participation fee

- YES, I would like to participate for the reduced fee for public authorities **EUR 1.490** (excl. VAT).
- YES, I would like to participate for the regular fee of **EUR 1.890** (excl. VAT).

The German VAT of 19% will be added, if applicable

Newsletter subscription

- Please send me information about Structural and Investment Funds issues for free. I may unsubscribe from this service any time.

Cancellations

Cancellations should be made in writing per post or fax. Please note that the full fee will be charged in case of no show at the online event or for cancellations received after 23 February 2021. Nomination of a substitute remains possible without any additional costs. For more detailed information, scope and conduct of contract as well as cancellation policy, please check the Terms & Conditions on our website.

Please register with:



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Name

Position, Department

Company Name

Address

Phone, Fax

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VAT Reg.-No.

Date, Signature

Upcoming event:

**Hybrid Course:
Innovation in Management and Control of ESI Funds. Towards a Green, Digital, Resilient
and Innovative Europe 2021-2027**

21-23 April | Rome and Online

On the way to a green, digital, resilient and innovative Europe 2021-2027, it is crucial not only to select and implement the projects, which fit into the framework of the European Commission about innovative, resilient, digital and green Europe, but also to use new, innovative approaches and instruments for the controlling activities of this kind of projects. Join us and we will help you to achieve these objectives!