

# SCOs: Exchange on implementation issues

Interreg Knowledge Fair session report | March 2024

## Overview

During the session the most recent updates and SCOs statistics in Interreg programmes were presented, key messages and interesting SCOs practices from the most recent events were summarized. These were followed by a short discussion on current problems and agreements on the work focus in 2024.

## Methodology

A presentation and exchanges with participants on:

1. updated SCOs statistics;
2. key messages and interesting SCOs practices;
3. current problems and stumble blocs;
4. discussions in 2024.

## Key discussion points

### Updated SCOs statistics

By the end of February 2024, in [the collection table](#) there are SCOs practices from 55 programmes. By the first half of 2024 Interact plans collecting the practices from all programmes. Interact will support programmes that are still not in the table, by preparing the tentative data based on information in the programme's documents available online. In the next step, Interact will contact programmes to check, confirm and complement missing information.

From analysis of the current data, off-the-shelf options are the most popular method, nevertheless 30% programmes designed their programme specific SCOs. In this group two most popular SCOs are the preparation costs lump sum and unit cost for staff cost. There are also interesting new practices such as a lump sum for visibility measures or unit cost for a purchase of office equipment.

### Messages and interesting SCOs practices from past events

The short summary of the important and interesting points from SCOs webinar in September, November 2023 and February 2024 was complemented with information on a

planned letter from Interact, on behalf of Interreg programmes, to the EC addressing the requirement of verification of existence of the travel and accommodation cost category. Participants were also informed about the planned by the EC revision of the Guidance on SCOs.

### Discussion on current problems and stumble blocs

The discussion didn't reveal any new problems faced by programmes, apart from those discussed during the webinar in February 2024. Yet, the implementation challenges will be collected and monitored through the SCOs community, and exchanged during the online webinars. Interact also noted that, currently, there are no challenges identified with the implementation of the "upper level" SCOs. The problem of verification of the existence of cost category, in relation to travel and accommodation flat rate, was raised as the current primary concern.

### Discussions in 2024

Further discussions on risk- based management verifications and SCOs, SCOs and double financing, SCOs in post-27 will be in the main three topics complemented by exchanges on SCOs implementation issues.

Through the SCO community Interact will also inform programmes on the progress on the letter regarding the travel and accommodation flat rate requirement and the work on the revision of the Guidance on SCOs.

Also in March 2024, the registration will be opened for the new certified training - Foundations of SCOs. The training for the first cohort is planned from April to June.

## **Regulations and articles of particular significance**

Common Provisions Regulation	53, 74, 94
Interreg Regulation	41

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