

Beyond SCOs: Towards performance-based methods?

Interreg Knowledge Fair session report | March 2024

Overview

The session objective was to kick-off a discussion with programmes on possibilities of performance based approach in Interreg.

Key discussion points

- SCOs growing popularity in Interreg has been perceived as a significant simplification; Still there have been some implementation issues/uncertainties, mentioned in previous IKF SCOs-related sessions, that require further clarifications;
- Lessons learned from application SCOs in the performance based context: the rules have to be simple and clear to bring simplifications; simplifications cannot cause additional risks, as they will not be embraced by the applicants; preparation of programme specific SCOs require time and resources, which in case of some programmes is not possible to allocate – hence the popularity of off-the-shelf SCOs among Interregs;
- The wider use of SCOs and a broader set of off-the-shelf marks for most programme practitioners as far as they would want to go towards a performance-based approach;
- Interreg community would like to hear more from practitioners applying result-oriented SCOs – lump sums, established on the basis of draft budget methodology. Programmes in the near future would like to learn more from those applying the method, in particular regarding the delivery of the qualitative outputs;
- The performance-based model, in the current form known from mainstream programmes or RRF, seems a very costs heavy, resource consuming, with the design phase based on availability of significant data amount. This seems to be not suited for the Interreg reality;

- There are still very few real life examples of the performance-based approaches in the cohesion policy. There are first evaluations, lessons learned from the RRF instrument. Interact should collect and disseminate further publication related to the topic. The publications will be available under [the separate thread in the SCO community](#);
- Planning future Interreg performance-based models on the current knowledge and experience might bring less security and more risk.

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