

Always start in Small!

Draft Agenda



Managing small projects and SPF in Interreg
30 - 31 January 2019
Prague, Ministry of Regional Development





Always start in Small: Managing small projects in Interreg

30 – 31 January 2019, Prague

Outline

Several options for small projects

Interreg programmes often lack visibility of their achievements for the residents in the cross-border region. People-to-people actions are one of the responses: one of the ways to increase the programme's visibility and to overcome mental barriers is to bring people from both sides of the border together in cultural events, local partnerships, students' exchanges or youth contests etc. Such activities will be mostly done in small projects – and those should be based on a shared cross-local or -regional strategy.

Several options for the implementation of small projects within Interreg programmes exist:

- The Small Project Fund (SPF) – which is now also anchored in the draft regulation post 2020 and would then be the SPF
- Small project funds in Community-led local development (CLLD; i.e. the mainstreamed Leader-approach)
- Small or micro-projects managed by the Managing Authority (MA)

Small Project Fund (SPF)

The SPF is a frequently used tool – in particular in cross-border programmes. Approximately one third of these programmes uses the instrument. The management of SPF is usually done at the local / regional level (in particular at the level of Euroregions) and the project scale is mostly local. Next to its function as fund for small people-to-people projects the SPF might also be used as facility to provide seed-financing in order to prepare larger projects or to test new ideas.

Small projects in Community-led Local Development (CLLD)

CLLD within Interreg is currently applied in the programme IT-AT. Within the framework of CLLD the programme has established several funds for small projects. Embedding such facilities in CLLD has its merit since the local and regional level becomes partner of a facilitated strategy-building process.

But need for simplified management approaches ...

Efficiency in managing small project facilities is crucial but challenging – in particular with a view to the financial management. Thus - in line with the intents of the Omnibus-Regulation - the draft regulations propose the stringent application of simplified cost options (SCOs) such as unit costs, lump sums and flat rates for smaller projects. The use of SCOs would become a must in the future management of SPFs. Provisions related to the eligibility of expenditures in the draft regulations foresee a wide range of options to adopt models of SCOs used in previous Interreg programmes or even from other programmes.



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Objectives

We will seek to:

- Provide an overview on current implementation models for small project funding facilities
- Discuss key management steps such as project selection and FLC
- Present and discuss the requirements for post 2020 in draft regulations
- Present models for the application of SCOs in the frame of SPF and CLLD
- Find out what type of tools / support would be most appreciated (e.g. HIT)



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Day one

30 January 2019

9.00 – 09.30

Registration and welcome coffee

9.30 – 10.00

Welcome and introduction

- Welcome and introduction (Martin Buršík, Czech Ministry of Regional Development, Interact)
- Seminar objectives

10.00 – 12.30

Implementing models for SPF and CLLD

**Coffee break
included**

- SPF speaker 1 (SPF – implementing body and model, project selection, control)
- SPF speaker 2 (facility for preparatory projects)
- Christian Stampfer (Land Tyrol, IT-AT): small projects in CLLD (model, selection, control)

Q&A

Objective: we will present, discuss and exchange on different models for small projects, thereby highlighting the key challenges related to management efficiency.

12.30 – 13.30

Lunch break

13.30 – 15.00

Heading for management efficiency

**Coffee break
included**

- Overview on SPF management models
- Group work in order to identify potentialities for lean management

Objective: we will seek to identify options and potentialities for lean management of small project facilities while still taking care of stakeholder commitment.

15.00 – 16.00

SPF and CLLD in the Draft Regulations post 2020

Dorota Witoldson (DG Regio)

16.00 – 16.15

Wrap-up and closure of day 1



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Day two

31 January 2019

08.30 – 09.00

Welcome and recap of the previous day

09.00 – 11.00

**Coffee break
included**

Use of simplified cost options (SCOs)

- State of play regarding SCOs
- Speaker 1 (small project facility using SCO e.g. Europe for Citizens)
- Christopher Parker (TN programme NPA)

Q & A

Objective: we will present models of small project facilities which already use SCOs, thus hearing first-hand experience on management, control and audit issues.

11.00 – 12.30

Putting SCOs into practice

- Identification of SCOs most suitable for small projects (lump sum, standard unit cost, flat rate and combinations thereof)
- Group work on major changes required to implement small project facilities mostly based on SCOs

Objective: we will summarise the major pre-conditions to set-up SCOs in the framework of a SPF, i.e. approaches to calculation, standardisation of project modules and control and we will discuss major implications for management practices of small project facilities

12.30 – 12.45

Wrap-up and closure

- Information on upcoming events

12.45 – 14.00

Lunch break