

New design for content and finance: Embracing SCOs



19-20 September 2020

Park Inn by Radisson Meriton Conference & Spa Hotel Tallinn
Toompuiestee 27, 10149 Tallinn, Estonia





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Outlines

The need for simplification and reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries of the ESI funds have been already widely recognised – it is time to move on to its practical implementation. Simplified cost options (SCOs) allow focusing on the projects' content for achieving results with less bureaucracy, reduction of costs of controls and decreasing the level of potential errors.

However, so far SCOs were mainly a topic from a purely finance perspective. It is time to change that. Project and programme finances cannot be looked upon separately from the content and this is why the event aims at bringing in both PROJECT and FINANCE OFFICERS to join forces in building the SCOs and 'shipping' them into the real world. This 1,5 days workshop will be a platform for participants to connect, exchange on their programmes' experience with SCOs, to jointly work on designing the new SCOs. We will use different methods: brainstorming and generating fresh ideas, looking from different angles at things we used to do in a traditional way, trying to build SCOs in small groups, analysing different types of projects and projects' activities and matching them to the relevant SCOs.

As an outcome of the workshop, we expect participants to get ideas (traditional and new ones) on how to implement and make the best use of SCOs in their programmes. Relevant results will also be shared with the HIT network for the next programming period.

Objectives

During this meeting, you WILL NOT:

- learn about basic features of SCOs – you are expected to be familiar with the options available or to be a practitioner, an active 'user' of the SCOs in your programme,
- discuss the benefits of using SCOs – advantages they offer are taken for granted as a point of departure when you decide for the meeting.

Instead, during this event you WILL:

- examine how to approach and how to build good methodologies for different SCOs (a step-by-step journey from A to Z),
- discuss which simplified cost option is best suited for which type of projects, project's activities, beneficiaries,
- generate ideas (Interreg-specific SCOs – why not?),
- potentially establish an Interreg working group on SCOs.

Target group

The event is dedicated and limited to experienced Interreg programmes' project and finance officers. To ensure participation of a wide range of programmes, the participation is limited to 2 representatives per programme (involved in finance and/or content).



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Day one

Thursday, 19 September 2019

08.30 – 09.00 Registration and Welcome Coffee / Tea

09.00 – 09.45 **What is in it for my programme: available SCOs**

Interact, presentation

- Off-the-shelf SCOs in the regulations
- SCOs in use: map of SCOs practices

With this session, participants will get a short overview of the SCOs used in Interreg and beyond. During the session, we will also discuss where we (Interreg) want to go with SCOs: new off-the-shelf, potential for harmonised approaches in Interreg.

9.45 – 10.30

SCOs: special focus on staff costs

Programme & Interact, presentation & discussion

- Introduction & presentation, Interact & Interreg Germany – the Netherlands: the use of unit costs for staff
- Discussion on different calculation methods for staff costs: can we solve our problems with staff costs?

After this session, participants will exchange on pros and cons of different calculation methods for the staff costs (fixed percentage, 20% flat rate, unit costs) and potential to harmonise staff costs calculation methods in Interreg.

10.30 – 11.00

Coffee break

11.00 – 13.00

DIY: setting up a SCO

Introduction, incl. programme presentation, group work based on the case studies and plenary discussion

- Introduction:
 - Setting up a SCO: methodology and documentation (Interact)
 - Group work: who, what, how

With this session, participants will have had a chance to design different SCOs for different types of projects (thematic orientation, size), partnerships, activities; analyse the process taking into account all steps of the project life cycle (advantages and points for consideration for different methodologies, general requirements, data needed, audit trail, reporting and monitoring).

13.00 – 14.00

Lunch



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14.00 – 16.30
incl. coffee
break

DYI: setting up a SCO

Continuation of the previous session

16.30 – 17.00

Wrap up of day 1

Day two

Friday, 20 September

09.00 – 09.45

Review day 1 – groups' reflections

Plenary discussion

With this session, participants will have shared their feedback on the work and results of the group work of the previous day.

09.45 – 10.30

Which options to develop further (jointly)?

Dotting exercise and discussion

After this session, participants will have had an opportunity to discuss further potential of the Interreg-specific SCOs.

10.30 – 11.00

Coffee break

11.00 – 12.00

Parallel sessions in groups focusing on divers topics

Group work for different areas:

- How to convince your stakeholder?
- Roadmap to SCOs: which elements need to be covered?
- Continuation from day 1 groups (if needed and wanted)

With this session, participants will have had a chance to find and discuss different arguments to convince different groups of stakeholders to use SCOs.

12.00 – 12.30

Spotlight presentations in plenary from group work

12.30 - 13.00

Next steps and wrap up

13.00 – 14.00

Lunch

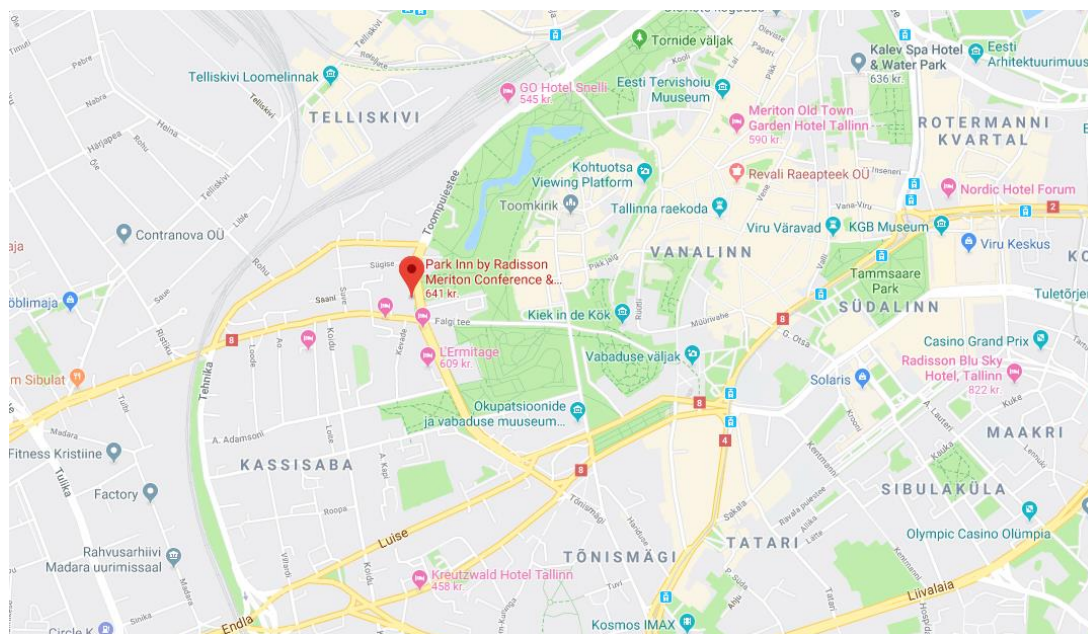


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Practicalities

Venue

Point of meeting, Park Inn by Radisson Meriton Conference & Spa Hotel Tallinn
Toompuiestee 27, 10149 Tallinn, Estonia.



Travel

<https://www.tallinn-airport.ee/en/transport/leaving-the-airport/>

Accommodation

To proceed with the accommodation reservation in Park Inn By Radisson Meriton Conference & Spa Hotel using the password **Embracing SCOs** please contact the M&E Sales Coordinator Keithi Õunapu by:

Telephone: +372 53 010 937

E-mail: keithi.ounapu@parkinn.com



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Accommodation special rates with the password "Embracing SCOs" are:

Room rate per night:

Standard Single/double - 85/95 EUR

Superior Single/double - 99/109 EUR

The deadline to book the accommodation is **21.08.2019**.

After the cut off date the bookings will be made upon availability – special rate not guaranteed.

Other information

If you have any questions, please contact:

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We look forward to meeting you in Tallinn!