

Brainstorming on unit cost – focus on calculation methodology and data collection

Which method to choose? What's enough/
appropriate?



Calculation methodologies for SCOs - reminder

A fair, equitable
and verifiable
method

- Statistical data, other objective information or an expert judgement,
- Verified historical data of individual beneficiaries,
- Application of the usual accounting practices of individual beneficiaries

Draft budget

- Case-by-case
- Total cost < EUR 200 000 (for SPF – ERDF EUR 100 000)

Other Union
policies/ MS
schemes

- For similar type of operation
- Totality of the method
- Available, up-to-date

SCOs from
Regulations

- off-the-shelf options

A fair, equitable and verifiable method - examples

- Statistical data: from national statistical offices, EUROSTAT, statistical analysis of historical data (programme/ project), other reliable sources
- Other objective data: surveys, market research, rates from national/ regional level, hourly rates within a national labour contract
- Expert judgement: case-by-case, criteria for expert judgement by MA, no conflict of interest
- Max values (thresholds or ceilings set in national rules) cannot be used in principle when establishing a method (or in draft budget)
- Verified historical data of individual beneficiaries: past accounting data of beneficiaries over at least 3 years
- Application of the usual accounting practices of individual beneficiaries: all usual day-to-day activities and finances (including those not linked to EU support), compliance with national accounting rules and standards.

Draft budget

A draft budget is a calculation method to establish a SCO but NOT a SCO itself!

A project submits a draft budget to the programme

- Can include SCOs (top-down, bottom-up)



A programme assesses the draft budget and transforms it into SCO(s)

- Establishing payment triggers



SCOs are used during the project implementation

- Expenditure is reimbursed according to payment triggers

Other Union policies/ MS schemes - examples

- For similar types of operations
- Method should be in place at the moment of your call for proposals
- If any adjustments in the original method, should be mirrored in the copy-pasted
- Method should be re-used entirely and not only its result (not only amount, % but what is eligible, scope, etc.)
- MA to justify “similarity” of types of operations (similar \neq equal)
- If method is discontinued, it is not possible to copy-paste it!



Off-the-shelf SCOs from the Regulations

- Up to 20% flat rate for staff costs (CPR ≠ Interreg)
- 1720h unit costs
- Up to 15% flat rate for administration costs (on direct staff costs)
- **NEW:** Up to 7% flat rate for administration costs (on all direct costs)
- Up to 40% flat rate for everything (on direct staff costs)
- **NEW:** Up to 15% flat rate for travel & accommodation (on direct staff costs)



Calculation methodologies for Interreg unit cost

A fair, equitable and verifiable method

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Draft budget

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Other Union policies/ MS schemes

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Which option suits best?

Statistical data

- Statistical analysis of programme/project historical data
- (availability of data, commitment, lengthy?)

Other objective information

- Market research
- (lengthy? efforts to specify ToR vs. quality of output?)

Expert judgement

- Define who is an expert
- What is an “expert judgement”?
- Too risky? No real experience

Data collection and calculation methodology - process

- Establishing unit cost per 1 MS (based on data availability)
- Applying [HICP \(Harmonised index of consumer prices\) from Eurostat](#) to establish unit cost for all MS

	2020
Belgium	108.23
Bulgaria	106.27
Czechia	111.4
Denmark	102.9
Germany (until 1990 former f	105.8
Estonia	109.80
Ireland	101.2
Greece	101.17
Spain	103.91
France	105.50
Croatia	103.06
Italy	103.0
Cyprus	99.67

- Calculation of an average rate of change for the past 7 years, indexation to account for changes for the whole programming period (adjustment will be included in the method)

Data collection – how big sample size we need?

- With our unit cost, we need to reflect reality as much as possible so we need to determine the optimal sample size
- Define population size

Determine Sample Size

Confidence Level: 95% 99%

Confidence Interval:

Population:

Sample size needed:

[Online calculator](#)

- Confidence level – how sure can we be? Most commonly used 95%, i.e., so 95% sure
- Confidence interval – same as margin of error – plus-or-minus figure

Data collection – how big sample size we need?

Define population size :

- All (assumed) Interreg events in one country
- X Interreg programmes covering that country
- XX project partners (keep.eu?)
- 2 meetings per year per partner = XXX events/year
- *3 = 3 year period



Data collection – what is the margin of error?

- The smaller the sample from our population, the bigger the error rate

[Online calculator](#)

Calculate your margin of error

Population Size ⓘ

5000

Confidence Level (%) ⓘ

95 ▼

Sample size ⓘ

357

Margin of error

5%

Process – main steps

- Based on the commitment of programmes, finding a MS
- Finding the population size, sample size, margin of error
- Collecting data (based on agreed types of costs and types of events covered by the unit cost)
- Statistical analysis of data (normal distribution – calculation of a mean; i.e. average)
- Defining unit cost for X MS
- Indexation for 7 years of HICP
- Application of indexed HICP to establish unit cost for all MS



Next steps and events

- Fact sheet on how to fill in Appendix 2 (with mock-up example)
- [Fact sheet on using SCOs from other Union policies \(“copy-paste”, with programme example\)](#)
- Fact sheet on fixed percentage method -> HIT CG review
- Autumn events on SCOs and project changes



Feedback questionnaire



[Please fill in our evaluation survey](#) –
link in chat!

Thank you in advance for taking the
time!

Cooperation works

All materials will be available on:

www.interact-eu.net

