

# SPF: System, State Aid & SCOs



**SPF according to art. 25: implementation and SCO systems**  
**23 June 2021 (09.30 – 12.45 CET)**

Online event  
Agenda





## **Outline**

### **Approaches to managing small projects ....**

In March we met to get clarification on articles 24 and 25. For those interested in implementing an SPF, we propose to move on jointly.

Article 25 (previously article 24) stipulates the conditions for the set-up and the implementation of the SPF.

Efficiency in managing small project facilities is crucial but challenging – in particular, with a view to financial management. Article 25 of the draft ETC Regulation stipulates a couple of requirements for an SPF beneficiary. When putting these requirements into practice, we should head for management efficiency and user-friendliness.

We will discuss the implications of article 25 for different implementation models and management approaches, in order to encourage reflection on the most adequate ones.

### **...and hints on how to tackle State Aid ....**

We will also share experiences and open a discussion on the most suitable State Aid models for small projects. And we will discuss EC registration and reporting obligations, plus other urgent questions related to de minimis and State Aid.

### **... and Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) as one key lever to efficiency ....**

For any SPF, the costs for an SPF beneficiary should not exceed 20% of the overall budget of the fund. This is the maximum amount for the key tasks along the Project Management Cycle (PMC), meaning guidance to applicants, assessment, selection and finally monitoring & control, as well as safeguarding the audit trail.

The stringent use of SCOs is one of the key levers to:

- Efficient and result-oriented monitoring, and
- Cutting costs for control management verification, thus
- Keeping the overall management costs for an SPF project within reasonable limits.

Implementing SCOs efficiently and effectively means reflecting on the task division between the MA, national controllers and an SPF beneficiary. It also means coming up with a meaningful, yet lean and simple approach to shared responsibility. Which is why we will jointly explore various methods of setting up SCOs tailored to small projects.



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### **Objectives**

We will:

- Discuss and exchange on the implications of legal provisions for implementation models,
- Discuss and exchange on the notion of State Aid in an SPF,
- Exchange on the proper set-up for efficient financial management,
- Explore what type of tools and support you will need in the coming months.

### **Who is it for?**

Please note that the target group for this meeting is staff from MA/JS/EGTC/Euregio who are involved in the implementation of small projects through the SPF model (planning, monitoring and implementation).

**Day**                      **23 June 2021**

**09.15 – 09.30**        **Check-in to virtual meeting room and technical settings**

*Please join the virtual meeting room before the start of the meeting. It will be open 15 min before the event starts.*

**09.30 – 09.45**        **Welcome and introduction**

- Event objectives

**09.45 – 10.15**        **State aid in small projects**

- De minimis, State Aid & GBER in small projects

#### **Q&A**

#### **Objective:**

We will discuss and exchange on options for tackling the issue of State Aid in an SPF and small projects

**10.15 – 11.15**        **Setting relations in the triangle**

- Initial reflections on relations and task division in the triangle; i.e., between MA – SPF beneficiary – management verification
- Audit trail

#### **Discussion**

#### **Objective:**

Developing and sharing ideas on how to build the cornerstones of the SPF implementation system; raising awareness for sensitive issues, and options for proportionate approaches to administration and control

**11.15 – 11.45**        **Comfort break**



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### **11.45 – 12.45 Set-up for the efficient use of SCOs**

- Combining off-the-shelf options
- Gathering further requirements for the implementation system coming from SCOs

#### **Group work**

#### **Objective:**

Developing programme-specific SCOs is quite demanding – hence, we would jointly exploit the options combining standard SCOs

### **12.45 – 13.15 Comfort break**

### **13:15 – 14.15 Extra session - Draft budget**

- Initial reflections on pre-requirements for the safe and efficient use of draft budget as a calculation method for small projects in an SPF.

#### **Discussion**

## **Practicalities!**

### **Online meeting and meeting times**

All times indicated in this agenda are CET (Brussels time).

We will meet online using the video conferencing tool Zoom. Together with your registration confirmation, you will receive the link to the meeting and further information on how to access the virtual meeting room. To enable a swift start at 09.30, the virtual room will open 15 minutes before the meeting starts, and we will be present for your (technical) assistance.

### **Recording of the meeting**

The meeting will be recorded for internal use. We will use the recording to provide a written summary of the meeting. In this way, we can ensure that those who were not able to attend the meeting can benefit from the information and answers provided.

### **Registration**

Please register your participation by 22 June 2021.

### **Other information**

Should you have any questions relating to the content of the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact:

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