

SCOs in the Austrian RDP 14-20

status quo, experience and future

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SCOs in use in the Austrian RDP 14-20

throughout the RDP (if applicable)

- **up to 15% of the staff costs for indirect cost office** (off-the- shelf: Art. 68 (1) b CPR)
- **Km-money for car travel expenses** (standard scales of unit costs: Art. 67 (b) CPR) → calculated by the ministry of finance
- **staff costs with standard scales of unit costs**: follows the formula: *working hours x hourly rate*

$$\text{Hourly rate (SSUC)} = \frac{\text{gross annual salary}^2 \times \text{payroll-related costs factor}^3}{\text{factor 1 or 2 for average working hours}^4 \times \text{factor for reduced working hours}^5}$$

→ from ERDF (approved by DG Regio)

SCOs in use in the Austrian RDP 14-20

Measure/sub-measure specific SCOs

- SSUC for providing machinery for **measure 1 knowledge transfer** (e.g. saws)
- Lump sum payments for **measure 6.1.1. start-up grant for young farmers**
- Standard scales of unit costs for **measure 7.1.2 CommunalAudit**
 - base module: 8,274 EUR; strategy module: 5,209 EUR
- Standard scales of unit costs for **measure 8**
 - e.g. afforestation: 2 EUR per fir planted etc.
- Lump sum for **small projects (5.700 EUR) for 19.2.1 LEADER:**
 - similar European “Youth in Action” programme 2013

calculation by
independent
bodies

Challenges for MA/PA

- high requirements in terms of calculation, documentation (high preparation effort)
- Calculation errors affect systematically all supported operations
- Higher focus on administrative control of results
 - adds pressure, less flexibility if part of the project turns out different than expected
- No ex-ante check by EC (e.g. ESF)

**Solution:
more off-the-
shelf?**

Risks for beneficiaries (and/or LAGs)

- No consideration of higher costs in individual cases (calculations based on average values)
- If SCOs exist, no choosing whether to use SCO or actual cost
- Lump sum: All or nothing risk
- LAGs are forced to be the project applicant – more (financial and strategic) planning, more responsibility
- Different types of LEADER-projects with different rules: “regular” projects, EUR 5.700 small projects, umbrella projects, ... not easy in the communication

Experiences

- **Real simplification** achieved
- For MA/PA a **totally new way of thinking** is necessary → not so easy in the beginning
- LEADER small projects: **new groups addressed**, who previously were not involved with LEADER because they did not have the capacity to handle the “normal” requirements
- **Calculation is key!** it needs time and good data → strategic plan 21+: start now
- **Standard scale units and lump sums for LEADER difficult**, because of the diversity of projects
- **Look around!** Other funds (e.g. ERDF, ESF), other European programmes (e.g. ERASMUS)

Future ideas

- LAG-Management: **flat rate of up to 40 % of eligible direct staff costs to cover the remaining eligible costs**
- use of **draft budget option for (small) LEADER projects/umbrella projects**
- **travel expenses**: flat rate of eligible direct costs

Additional ideas from the LAG-network:

- A (up to) 10% lump sum of the project costs for (bureaucratic) project management and impact analysis
- EUR 5.000 flat rate for the initiation of a transnational cooperation project
- Use of the draft budget option for projects up to 100.000 Euro and/or umbrella projects

Open questions

- How to deal with procurement law?
- How to deal with exclusion of double funding?
- What are the concrete requirements for draft budgets? seems too easy ;-)
- Can EARDF really use all the off-the-shelf options in the Common Provisions Regulation? (*we believe yes: Art.77 (c) CAP Strategic plan proposal "in accordance with the rules for application of corresponding unit costs, lump sums and flat rates applicable in Union policies for a similar type of operation "*)
- Idea: Permanent Simplification Network Group (e.g. ESF)