



# SFC2021 & strategic EU projects

A new section for operations of strategic importance

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# Housekeeping to start with...

## How we planned today's session?

- A chat about SFC2021 & its new section about operations of strategic importance, among else
- Focus: covering the visibility side of SFC2021 & strategic EU projects

## Q&A

- Feel free to take the floor when asking questions - participants joining by webstream will not be able to see questions in the chat.
- Please note that questions concerning interpretation of the regulation include a formal procedure and cannot be answered straight away.

# ... and a word or two about terminology

## **CPR, visibility & acronyms: a love triangle that simply doesn't work**

CPR = Common Provisions Regulation

SFC = Structural Funds Communication

... and of course...

## **OSI**

OSI = Operations of Strategic Importance >>> a regulatory term

Strategic EU projects >>> a term that captures main elements of this legal provision and might work better when reaching out to audiences

...but do you have a better one?

# On today's agenda

Introduction to SFC2021

Getting visible with it:  
Visibility, transparency & communication module

Using SFC2021 for strategic EU projects:  
two documents that you absolutely need to know about

Q&A

# SFC2021

The official & electronic data exchange system.



# About SFC2021

- **SFC2021** is the electronic data exchange system for all official exchanges between the Member States and the Commission concerning the CPR Funds management.
- **Legal basis:** Article 69(9) & Annex XV of the [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/1060](#)
- **In practice:** programme authorities use SFC2021 to exchange different datasets on programme implementation



# SFC2021 access

- Available to officers working on implementation of EU Funds in Member States
- First step: create a European Commission Authentication System account, i.e. the EU Login
- Then: reach out to your Member States Liaison officer to gain entry to SFC2021
- Don't know who that is? Contact the [SFC2021 Support Team](#)
- Voila, you're in.



# SFC2021 support portal

- The portal includes answers to all the questions you might have, in particular the practical ones:
  - Character count
  - Excel export functionalities
  - Formats and documents
  - Training sessions, videos & more.



# Visibility, transparency & communication module

A SFC2021 section dedicated to visibility.

# The module

Including legal provisions from the *Visibility, transparency and communication* chapter of the CPR, namely:

**Communication  
coordinator**

**List of  
operations**

**Programme  
website**

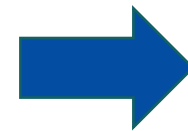
**Communication  
event / activity**

**Communication  
officer**

**Calls for  
proposals**

**Single website  
portal**

**Selected  
operations of  
strategic  
importance**



These two are  
for operations  
of strategic  
importance!

# Where to find it?

- Part of SFC2021's **Programming** section.
- SFC2021 > Programming > Visibility, transparency & communication module.

The screenshot shows the SFC2021 navigation menu. The top bar is dark blue with the European Union flag and the text 'SFC2021'. The menu items are: HOME, STRATEGIC PLANNING (with an upward arrow), PROGRAMMING (with an upward arrow), APPLICATION (with an EGF tag), and MONITORING (with a downward arrow). The 'PROGRAMMING' section is highlighted with a blue border and contains the following items: Programme (with IJG tag), Territorial just transition plan, Programme (with ETC tag), Programme (with EMFAF tag), Programme (with AMIF ISF BMVI tag), Cap Strategic Plan (with EAGF EAFRD tag), IPA in Rural Development (with IPA III tag), Commission decision, **Visibility, transparency & communication** (highlighted with a blue arrow), and Brexit Adjustment Reserve. The background shows a blurred table with columns for 'ent type' and numerical values.

# Who should use it & how?

- The module should be used by Member State and managing authority officers - **communication coordinators & officers** are best placed to include updates concerning visibility.
- Simply create a new document type, select the visibility requirement and fill in the required info.



# What to include in there? (1/2)

## **Communication coordinator & officer**

- A template (provided x2) with basic info about the newly nominated coordinator and/or officer
- Share the info as soon as the change takes place

## **Programme web & single website portal**

- Screenshot or similar
- Share the info when it's up & running

## **List of operations & calls for proposals**

- Lists and timetables, in open, machine-readable formats\*
- Publish the information on your webpages as frequent as in relevant CPR articles but in the VTC module provide them occasionally



# What to include in there? (2/2)

## **Communication event or activity**

- Invitation or similar document outlining main info of the event/activity that is organised by the project
- Note that SFC2021 should be used for all the types of projects mentioned in Art. 50(1)(e):
  - (1) operations of strategic importance &
  - (2) operations above EUR 10. mil &
  - (3) Interreg operations above EUR 5 mil.
- Note also that the Art. 50(1)(e) obligation remains with the beneficiary

## **Info about selected operations of strategic importance**

- Template (provided) with info about the strategic EU projects
- Within one month of selection



# Using SFC2021 for strategic EU projects

The two documents that you absolutely need to know about:

- (1) Communication events / activities &
- (2) Information about selected operations of strategic importance

# (1) Communication events & activities

## A provision for strategic EU projects to become famous

### Aim & reasoning:

A chance to make your programme's best projects **well known**.

An effort to **involve** high-level representatives: the MA & EC.

An **experiment** of outreach & engagement: a storytelling or fashion show, theatre play, competition, nature walk & any other format that works with your audiences.

A setting to **work together**, meaning projects, MAs, MS, etc.

**Workflow:** beneficiaries organise, managing authorities support, EC takes part

**Types of projects covered:** (1) operations of strategic importance, (2) projects above EUR 10. mil, (3) Interreg above EUR 5 mil.

**Legal basis:** Article 50(1)(e) of the CPR

*(e) for operations of strategic importance and operations the total cost of which exceeds EUR 10 000 000, organising a communication event or activity, as appropriate, and involving the Commission and the responsible managing authority in a timely manner.*





## (2) Selected operations of strategic importance

### **A provision to notify the EC when selecting operations of strategic importance**

**Aim:** keep track of incoming strategic EU projects & plan involvement in upcoming events / activities

**Reasoning:** interest shown by MS and MAs

**Workflow:** managing authorities send the info to the Commission via SFC2021

**Legal basis:** Article 73(5) of the CPR\*

*„When the managing authority selects an operation of strategic importance, it shall inform the Commission within 1 month and shall provide all relevant information to the Commission about that operation.”*

*\* Please note that CPR article 73(5) doesn't apply to Interreg, but Interreg programmes are encouraged to share the same information*

## (2) Selected operations of strategic importance

### ...all relevant information?

REGIO prepared **a template\*** to include all the info needed for this legal provision.

Based on outcomes of consultations\*\* & questions coming from MS.

Also based on already existing requirements, namely the list of operations (Article 49(3)).

\* *Template available on the [SFC support portal](#).*

\*\* *Inform EU Expert Group on Communication meeting in Zagreb, 5 June 2023*



# (2) Selected operations of strategic importance

A template including 21 data fields...

## Project & beneficiary

| Name of beneficiary & contractor | unique ID | operation name | **EMFAF nb** | purpose / achievements | type of intervention | location |



## Budget & timeline

| Start & expected end date | total cost | EU contribution | Union co-financing rate |



## Programme

| Fund | specific objective | unique ID of the CFP |



## Communication

| Managing authority: SoMe & website | Beneficiary: contact & SoMe & website | Provisional planning of the communication event / activity |



Text in this colour = voluntary info

## (2) Selected operations of strategic importance

...with examples.

Project & beneficiary	
Name of the OSI beneficiary, including first & last name (natural person) & contractor (public procurement) *	<i>City of Turin or Giovanni Campari</i> <i>Contractor XY</i>
Operation of strategic importance unique ID *	<i>2023OSI2211</i>
The Union fishing fleet register identification number	<i>2023FLEETNB1122</i>
Name of the operation *	<i>Make spaghetti great again</i>
Purpose and expected or actual achievements *	<i>Spaghetti puttanesca: cook up this classic sauce in one pan, then toss with spaghetti for a simple midweek meal. It's budget-friendly too, making it a great meal for the family.</i> <i>STEP 1</i> <i>Heat the oil in a <a href="#">non-stick pan</a> over a medium-low heat. Add the onion along with a generous pinch of salt and fry for 10 mins, or until soft. Add the garlic and chilli, if using, and cook for a further minute.</i> <i>STEP 2...</i>
Type of intervention *	<i>064 Water management and water resource conservation ...</i>

## (2) Selected operations of strategic importance

...with examples.

Timeline & budget	
Start date of the operation *	01.01.2023.
Expected or actual date of completion of the operation *	31.12.2025.
Total cost of the operation *	20.000.000,00 EUR
EU contribution *	17.000.000,00 EUR
Union co-financing rate *	85%

## (2) Selected operations of strategic importance

...with examples.

Location info	
Location indicator or geolocation for the operation and country concerned  For mobile operations or operations covering several locations the location of the beneficiary where the beneficiary is a legal entity; or the NUTS 2 level region where the beneficiary is a natural person *	44.83671951293945, 11.619765281677246  <i>Or</i>  <i>Corso Vittorio Emanuele II, 273-275, 00186 Roma RM, Italia</i>
Programme info	
Fund concerned *	<i>ESF+ / ERDF &amp; ESF+</i>
Specific objective concerned *	<i>ES02.4. Access to employment and activation measures for all</i>
Unique identifier of the call for proposals, through which the operation is granted EU support	<i>2023callKI99</i>

## (2) Selected operations of strategic importance

### ...with examples.

#### Communication info

By introducing the information mentioned below, the MA confirms and agrees that the beneficiary and MA are contacted for possible communication actions.

In case of natural persons, the section below does not have to be filled in.

Beneficiary contact	<i>beneficiary@email.com</i>
Beneficiary social media profiles	Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/beneficiary">https://www.facebook.com/beneficiary</a> Instagram: <a href="https://www.instagram.com/beneficiary">https://www.instagram.com/beneficiary</a>
Managing authority social media profiles	Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MA">https://www.facebook.com/MA</a> Instagram: <a href="https://www.instagram.com/MA">https://www.instagram.com/MA</a>
Operation of strategic importance website	<a href="http://www.beneficiary.eu">www.beneficiary.eu</a>
Managing authority website	<a href="http://www.managingauthority.eu">www.managingauthority.eu</a>
Provisional planning of the communication event / activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• what kind of communication actions are being planned?</li><li>• What kind of involvement of Commission and managing authority representatives is planned?</li></ul>	<i>A <b>fashion show</b>, organised by the beneficiary and to take place in October 2023 in <b>Rome</b>. The <u>MA</u> will prepare a <b>digital communication campaign</b>; a dedicated section on the programme website; and a match-making event with OSI beneficiaries. <b>The beneficiary will invite</b> Commission representatives and the MA communication officer to take an active part in the show.</i>



## (2) Selected operations of strategic importance

### What about planned strategic EU projects?

Appendix 3 includes information about planned OSIs that programmes submitted during programming

Vs.

Info about selected operations of strategic importance includes information about actually selected OSIs

### What if the two don't match?

In the end, not all planned operations may be selected for funding, or others can be selected instead.

In these cases, MS and MAs can modify Appendix 3 (not necessary to modify it only for this change)



# Final words & support material

We're almost done.

# Final words...

- Take note of the new document type and the Visibility, transparency and communication module in SFC2021
- Provide updated information via the system frequently
- Disseminate it (for **communication coordinators**) to managing authorities and (for **communication officers**) within your managing authority
- The operations of strategic importance toolkit is currently being **(1)** updated to include new information & **(2)** translated to all 24 EU languages

# ...and support material

## SFC2021

- [SFC2021 portal](#)
- [SFC2021 Application and Support Portal](#)
- [SFC2021 Support Portal: Access Rights](#)
- [SFC2021 Support Portal: Quick Guide for Documents in the VTC module](#)
- [SFC2021 Visibility, transparency & communication - templates](#)

## Support

- [Communicating Operations of Strategic Importance: A Practical Toolbox](#)
- [Inforegio – How to communicate?](#)

## Legal docs

- [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/1060](#)

## Communication

- [Ares\(2022\)5554980](#)
- [Ares\(2023\)7048364](#)



# Thank you!



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