

ESF THEMATIC NETWORK ON SIMPLIFICATION

REPORT ON SCO PRACTICES

(Draft for the 6th Meeting of the Thematic Network - The Hague – 8-9 June, 2017)

References:

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| Member State / Region | SLOVENIA |
| Reference number (TN's map of SCO practices) | n.a.(II) |

Contact details:

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Name of the Institution | Ministry of Labour, Family , Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities |
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| Type of SCO reported <i>(Please choose one of these types of SCO: flat rate financing, standard scale of unit costs, lump sum).</i> | STANDARD SCALE OF UNIT COSTS |
| Type of activities covered by the SCO <i>(Please indicate what type of activities is targeted by the SCO).</i> | REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES |

A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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| A1. Description of the type of operation <i>(Please describe in brief what types of operations are covered by SCO)</i> <p>Within this program the IB (Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities) published a public procurement for regional development agencies (RDA). Regional development agencies are the beneficiaries, chosen for the period 2017- 2022. During this period, they are obliged to prepare yearly public tenders, promote, coordinate and offer a full support to employers as well as individuals, obtaining the scholarship.</p> <p>In the second phase the selected agencies, who fulfil conditions and are chosen as suitable, publish a public procurement for employers interested in scholarships. The employers are selected on the basis of their application and program according to the Scholarship Act. Prior to submitting an</p> |
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application, employers must sign a contract with individual students, defining educational program, amount of scholarship and other relevant issues according to the Scholarship Act. The selected employers then start paying the defined amount to students and each month submit claim for reimbursement for the 50% of total scholarship amount.

A2. Definition of outputs/results *(Please give a short definition of outputs and/or results)*

The aim is to include 4.000 young people in regional schemes of scholarships (3.080 from the Eastern Slovenian Cohesion Region and 920 from Western Slovenian Cohesion Region).

A3. Beneficiaries *(please indicate the types of beneficiaries involved in the operations covered by SCO)*

Regional Development Agencies

A4. Target group(s) *(Please list target groups within projects covered by SCO)*

The following target groups are included in this program:

- High school and university students;
- Employers.

B. METHODOLOGY AND CALCULATION METHOD

B.1 Methodology *(please indicate which methodology/ies has/have been used: Fair, equitable and verifiable method / use of existing EU schemes for similar types of operation and beneficiary / Use of existing own national schemes for similar types of operations and beneficiaries / use of rates and specific methods enshrined in the regulation or in a delegated act / use of a draft budget /combination of methodologies).*

Please indicate if the concerned SCO has been covered by Art. 14(1) ESF)

The SCO is based on combination of methods:

- method of gathering historical data from similar operation from the past (2012, 2013) and
- a fair equitable and verifiable method, based on statistical data (level of growth for minimum gross wage).

B.2 Calculation Methods *(please describe how the calculations have been made)*

Standard scale of unit costs covers the cost of work and administrative costs of RDA and are calculated per one scholarship per month. They are refunded to RDAs.

The SCO is based on calculations from previous public tenders for regional scholarship schemes from 2008 until 2015.

These costs were calculated as the average from the total amount of eligible costs from RDAs, divided by the number of monthly scholarships. The average represented the basis of SCO per scholarship per month. Since the operation will last from 2016 until 2022, the methodology also includes growth level of average gross wage, so that each year the SCO changes according to the growth level of the average gross wage.

B.3 Data source *(please indicate the type of data used and the data source)*

A combination of data sources has been used:

- historical data from other similar programmes in the past (Regional Scholarship schemes 2008-2015)
- statistical legislation data (average gross wage).

C. IMPLEMENTATION OF SCO

(Please describe in brief what implementation rules and conditions have been set out)

The beneficiary (RDA) publishes a public tender for employers. Employers have to submit an application with a detailed description of the program and signed contracts with students obtaining scholarship. One project is one scholarship. After being selected, employers start paying scholarship on monthly basis and prepare claim for reimbursement for part (max 50%) of this scholarship and submits it to RDA. The RDA collects claims for reimbursement from all employers in the region, add their costs (1 SCO for 1 scholarship) and prepare one claim for reimbursement and submit it to the IB.

D. AUDIT TRAIL

(Please provide a brief description of the audit trail for the concerned SCO, including documents, key contents/conditions and procedures)

Beneficiaries collect documentation from employers and prepare one claim for payment. This claim for payment is submitted to the IB together with the following documentation:

- contacts on co-financing of projects between employers and RDAs together with all possible annexes (only when submitting the first claim for payment)
- a print-out of the transaction account of the beneficiary, where it is visible the transfer of financial means from the beneficiary to employers.

The beneficiary executes 100% administrative control and verification of the documentation submitted by employers before the payment. The IB executes 125. Article administrative control as well as on-the-spot control.

E. ASSESSMENT BY THE AUDIT AUTHORITY(IES) INCLUDING EVENTUAL EX ANTE ASSESSMENT

(If relevant, please explain how the audit authority has been involved in preparation and assessment of the SCO).

For the SCO in question, the methodology was prepared by the Intermediary Body and afterwards approved by the Managing Authority. Audit authorities had no relevant role in the preparation or assessment of the methodology of the SCO.

For the operation in question, there have been no audit assessments yet. However, in the previous Financial perspective 2007-2013, this same program was assessed by the Audit authority (Budget Supervision Office) and Court of Audits and no irregularities were discovered.

F. IMPACT OR ADDED VALUE FOR THE MA, BENEFICIARIES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

(Please explain how you have perceived impact/added value of the SCO for the MA, beneficiaries and other stakeholders).

1. The process of submitting requests for payment by the RDAs has been simplified.
2. Verifications and controls by the IB are simplified, with only a few documents, so the procedures can be carried out in shorter period and can focus more on the results and outputs.

G. SPECIFIC ISSUES FACED WITHIN CALCULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCO

(Please indicate any issues/problems/challenges you have experienced when setting out or implementing the SCO, i.e. high workload, state aid, public procurement, national legislation, revenues etc.)

Since all information was available to calculate the SCO and the SCO was determined already in the previous Financial perspective, the process was not so demanding and we only had to deal with concrete situations and questions.

We had some doubts regarding the calculation of SCO, since the first two public tenders in 2008 and 2009 included real costs and afterwards the SCO was introduced. Consequently, one option would be to keep the same SCO and only raise it for the growth level of gross wage. However, it was decided to calculate the cost based on all previous public tenders with calculation of cost from all eligible costs divided by the number of paid scholarships.

H. LESSONS LEARNED AND POINTERS

(Please indicate any unforeseen practical implications that have emerged and any key lessons you have learned from the development and implementation of the concerned SCO practice).

Every SCO must be developed and determined carefully, taking into account all the deviations and cases, that may occur. Calculation of SCO is very important and should be carefully and well thought.
In case of longer operations or programs, the SCO, its methodology and value should be revised and adapted to new circumstances, changed conditions or market prices.

I. ANNEXES OR LINKS TO ONLINE DOCUMENTS

(Please list documents or links to online documents like complete methodology, calculation methods, documents submitted to the Commission, guidance for MAs and beneficiaries, calls for proposals, audit trail, legal acts etc.).