



Simplified cost options / Beneficiary's perspective

Kimmo Polvivaara, 29.11.2023

Disclaimer

This is not a paid advertisement, though it may sound like it. I am simply a strong advocate for simplified cost options. Sanna asked for my opinion, and I gave her my honest answer.

This is my personal view, and it does not necessarily reflect the views of Turku University of Applied Sciences. I am speaking as an individual who appreciates simplicity.



Pros of simplified cost options

- **Simplified funding models make it easier and faster to apply for and report on projects.**
 - reduces workload. Saves a lot of working hours, especially at the EU level as a whole
- **A simplified funding model can make projects more attractive and easier to implement. Less bureaucracy means easier to manage.**
 - This can lead to greater cooperation and better innovation, as more organizations may be willing to participate.
- **Simplified funding models also reduce administrative burden in organizations.**
 - Fewer administrative tasks to be done, which can free up time and resources for the actual implementation of projects.



Pros of simplified cost options

- **No need to think about sick leaves, holiday allowances or holiday pay allocations to the project**
 - Takes a lot of administrative work
- **SCOs can help to reduce the risk of disputes between project beneficiaries and managing authorities over the eligibility of project costs.**

Faster and easier reporting for organizations means **faster and easier review** for financiers, leading to **faster payments**.



Cons of simplified cost options

- **Predefined unit cost might be lower than actual salary**

However,

Feature, not bug

The funding model is designed this way, (probably) not by mistake. It encourages organizations to plan their project groups carefully. Everyone knows the unit costs, so the project group can be planned so that the salary level is sufficient.

Researchers from different phases of their careers

The funding model guides projects to use researchers from different phases of their careers.

Assembling researchers from diverse career stages enables projects to draw upon a broader spectrum of perspectives and expertise, fostering more impactful outcomes.



Rough calculations on time saved

These are relatively new funding models, so it is difficult to calculate the exact time saved. However, here are some rough estimates. Data from TUAS project management tool.

Difference in administrative hours is as follows (on average):

- BSR 2014-2020: **253 hours/year per BSR project**
- BSR 2021 – 2027: **109 hours/year per BSR project**

While the data should not be taken as definitive, as the tasks may have varied slightly, it does suggest that there is the potential for significant time savings.



Questions?

Please respectfully disagree, agree,
or critique my views.

I welcome feedback!

