

# Financing Not Linked to Costs: Practical workshop from designing to implementation, control and audit



DATE: 26 – 27 March 2026  
LOCATION:  
The Spencer Hotel, Excise Walk,  
International Financial Services  
Centre, Dublin

## About The Seminar

EU Funds are rapidly moving toward Financing Not Linked to Costs (FNLC) — are you ready?

Join our two-day international seminar to gain practical expertise in designing, implementing, controlling, and auditing FNLC across ESF+, ERDF, and the Cohesion Fund. Designed for managers and auditors, the seminar combines expert insights, hands-on workshops and real-life case studies to boost collaboration and practical understanding. You'll explore FNLC design, key do's and don'ts, and practical exercises, then dive into control and audit strategies, discover how FNLC models can be applied in ESF+ and ERDF, and get a forward-looking perspective on post-2027 developments as well as lessons learned from the RRF. Stay up to date with the latest FNLC guidelines and gain the confidence to apply FNLC effectively in your programmes.

## Program

### 26 March 2026

- 9.00 Introduction and additional specific needs
- 9.15 Regulatory framework and fundamentals of FNLC
- 10.00 FNLC vs SCOs
- 10.30 Coffee break
- 10.45 Components of FNLC design
- 12.30 Lunch break
- 13.30 How to design a FNLC proposal – do's and don'ts
- 14.45 Coffee break
- 15.00 Assurance & FNLC: getting it right
- 15.45 Practical workshop on FNLC design
- 16.30 End of day 1

### 27 March 2026

- 9.00 Wrap up day 1
- 9.15 Principles of audit of FNLC
- 10.00 Case study – design and implementation
- 10.30 Coffee break
- 10.45 Case study – control and audit
- 12.30 Lunch break
- 13.30 FNLC models in ESF+ and ERDF
- 14.45 Coffee break
- 15.00 Practical workshop on FNLC control and audit
- 15.45 Post 2027 and lessons learnt from RRF
- 16.30 End of day 2

The topics on the agenda will be presented and discussed with practical cases / situations to achieve a maximum learning experience.

## Meet our speakers



Daria Smolić

Daria Smolić is Head of the Audit Service for the European Social Fund at the Single Audit Authority of Croatia, with more than 10 years of professional experience in auditing EU funds. Daria has extensive experience in audits of operations, system audits and audits of annual accounts under the ESF and ESF+ programmes. She has contributed as an expert in several Twinning projects, delivering training and technical support to strengthen audit and control capacities in candidate countries. She is actively engaged in discussions on innovative approaches to EU funding, including result-based models, and brings practical insights relevant to the development and assessment of Financing Not Linked to Costs (FNLC).



Naida Mekić

Naida Mekić is Head of Sector in the Managing Authority for the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) in Croatia, bringing more than 17 years of professional experience in cohesion policy, strategic planning, and EU fund management. She has a strong background in designing and managing ESF programmes, including simplification measures such as Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) and Financing Not Linked to Costs (FNLC). She has contributed to strengthening management capacities for EU funds in candidate countries through technical assistance support. Drawing on experience in shaping discussions on results-based approaches, including post-2027 EU funding frameworks, Naida offers hands-on expertise in designing and implementing FNLC schemes.

### Price and Registration

The price of this seminar is € 1.195 excluding VAT for early booking (before 21 February 2026). Afterwards the price is € 1.395 excluding VAT.

You are welcome to reserve your seat(s). For this, please book via our website <http://www.seeu-academy.eu> or send an email to: [registration@seeu-academy.eu](mailto:registration@seeu-academy.eu)

Please provide for each participant the following information in your email:  
Full name / Institution / email / mobile number / invoice address

### Invoice

The invoice will be sent after the registration and is to be paid within 14 days (and ultimately one week in advance of the seminar).

### Cancellation

Cancellation of participation must be in writing and is free of charge up to 14 days before the start of the event. In case of no-show or cancellation later than two weeks before the date of the event, the entire event price plus VAT is due.

### Questions

If you have any further questions, please contact us.  
Email: [info@seeu-academy.eu](mailto:info@seeu-academy.eu)

We are looking forward to welcoming you.  
See U in Dublin!

