



7th meeting of the Transnational Network (TN) of ERDF/CF SCO practitioners
8th- 9th October 2020 (online meeting)

Agenda

Day 1: Thursday, 8th October

The online platform will open for participants at 9:00. Participants are kindly invited to access the platform at least **15 minutes** before the meeting starts.

9:30 – 9:45	<p>Introduction to the meeting</p> <p>Presenting the rationale and objectives of the meeting.</p> <p><i>Erich Unterwurzacher (Director, EC-DG REGIO Directorate F – Better implementation, Closure and Programme Implementation III)</i> <i>Franck Sébert (Director, EC-DG REGIO Directorate C – Audit)</i> <i>Charlie Grant (Head of Unit, EC-DG REGIO Unit F1 – Better implementation and closure)</i> <i>Lothar Kuhl (Head of Unit, EC-DG REGIO Unit C1 – Coordination, relation with CoA and OLAF)</i></p>
9:45 – 10:00	<p>Presenting the Transnational Network (TN) and agenda of the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introducing the TN to representatives of the Audit Authorities• Presenting the agenda and functioning of the meeting: activities and proceedings. <p><i>Luca Santin (Thematic Expert of the TN)</i></p>
SESSION I – State of play on SCOs and Audit	
10:00 – 10:30	<p>I.1 – Updates on SCOs</p> <p>Overview of the state of play on SCOs for the current and 2021-2027 programming period.</p> <p><i>Presentation by representatives of EC-DG REGIO - Unit F1 - Better implementation and closure</i></p>
10:30 – 11:30	<p>I.2 – Audit of SCOs: the point of view of the Commission</p> <p>This session aims to introduce the main theme of the meeting by presenting and discussing the state of play and key recommendations on Audit of Simplified Cost Options. Approaches, procedures and tools for ex ante assessment of SCOs will be presented by representatives of the European Commission – DG REGIO. Particular attention will be dedicated to present the importance of setting up collaborative schemes between Audit Authorities (AAs) and Managing Authorities (MAs).</p> <p><i>Presentation by representatives of EC-DG REGIO – Directorate C – Audit</i></p>
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee break
SESSION II – Partnerships between Managing Authorities and Audit Authorities	
11:45 – 12:45	<p>II.1 – Good practices of collaboration between authorities</p> <p>Representatives of MAs and AAs will co-present concrete examples of dialogue and successful collaboration between the two authorities. The practices will be discussed, in the view to highlight the added value of partnership in terms of legal certainty and enhanced simplification.</p> <p>Based on the key outcomes of the “<i>Case reports on ex-ante assessment of SCOs and collaboration between Managing Authorities and Audit Authorities</i>”, the following points will be addressed:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background and key preconditions for collaboration • Key steps of the partnership process: actions and stakeholders • Main challenges and solutions • Outcomes and added value of collaboration • Lessons learned and recommendations (for authorities and the EC). <p><i>Presentations by TN members</i></p>
12:45 – 13:25	<p>II.2 – Developing partnership between MAs and AAs : what problems and why?</p> <p>This session aims to identify the key challenges and issues that could hinder the development of a partnership approach between MA and AA.</p> <p>Participants will be divided into groups and will be invited to identify, from the two perspectives, the concrete obstacles to partnership (what are the problems?) and the underlying reasons (why do we have these problems?).</p> <p>The challenges/issues and related reasons identified by the groups will be clustered into a few key points that will be addressed in Day 2 (session II.3).</p> <p><i>Group discussions</i></p>
13:25 – 13:30	Recap and instructions for Day2

Day 2: Friday, 9th October	
The online platform will open for participants at 9:00. Participants are kindly invited to access the platform at least 15 minutes before the meeting starts.	
9:30 – 10:45	<p>II.3 - Developing partnership between MA and AA: what (common) solutions?</p> <p>Participants will be invited to discuss how to find common solutions to the key issues identified in the previous session and to point out what contribution should be brought by each partner (i.e. what should AAs or MAs do/not do?)</p> <p>During the working group sessions, representatives of MAs and AAs from the good practices will join the groups to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the clear definition and prioritisation of issues and challenges • Facilitate the identification of shared solutions. <p><i>Group discussions and reporting back in plenary</i></p>
SESSION III – TN work plan and subgroups	
10:45 – 11:15	<p>III.1 – Simplification</p> <p>The outcomes of the 1st meeting of the TN subgroup on ‘Simplification’ will be presented and discussed, to identify priorities and tasks for the TN’s agenda on Simplification.</p> <p><i>Joint discussion facilitated by members of the TN subgroup on ‘Simplification’</i></p>
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:30	<p>III.2 – EU Level SCOs</p> <p>The legislative framework of the programming period 2021-2027 for Cohesion Policy gives the possibility to the Commission to define by delegated acts SCOs at EU level to be applied to Member States (article 88.4 draft CPR).</p> <p>Based on the outcomes of the 1st meeting of the TN subgroup on ‘EU Level SCOs’, TN members will be invited to address the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas and/or activities for which the development of unit costs is feasible on a short and/or medium term and which would trigger the highest potential for simplification • Areas and/or activities for which comprehensive, consistent, comparable and robust data already exist and can be easily exploitable • Tasks/steps for the development of an EU level SCO in the identified areas. <p><i>Joint discussion facilitated by members of the TN subgroup on ‘EU Level SCOs’</i></p>

12:30 – 13:15	<p>III.3 – Maps of SCOs for post 2020</p> <p>Based on the outcomes of the revised maps of SCOs under art. 88 CPR, this session will aim to carry out a preliminary assessment of the state of play of preparations of SCOs for the next programming period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where are the MS at with the preparation of Annex V • Next operational steps (finalisation, submission, assessment, adoption) • What recommendations around the process could be shared. <p><i>Luca Santin (Thematic expert of the TN) & representatives of EC-DG REGIO</i></p>
13:15 – 13:30	<p>III.4 – Updating the Work Plan & planning the next meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recap of the main decisions, ideas and proposals • Planning the next meeting and activities • Updating the TN's Work Plan. <p><i>Charlie Grant (Head of Unit, EC-DG REGIO Unit F1 - Better implementation and closure)</i> <i>Luca Santin (Thematic expert of the TN)</i></p>