

ESF Thematic Network on Simplification

12th meeting in Hamburg, Germany – 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> June 2019

AGENDA

Day 1: Thursday, 6th June

09:30 – 10:00	<b>Welcome coffee and registration at venue</b> ( <u><a href="https://goo.gl/maps/EaTD89VJnSc5qVHU7">"Bürgerhaus Wandsbek"</a></u> , Am Alten Posthaus 4, 22041 Hamburg - Room: "Bürgersaal" - <a href="https://goo.gl/maps/EaTD89VJnSc5qVHU7">https://goo.gl/maps/EaTD89VJnSc5qVHU7</a> )
10:00 – 10:10	<b>Welcome by the host Ministry</b> <i>Martin Weber, Head of Department for Labour market - State Ministry of Labour, Social and Family Affairs and Integration – Hamburg</i>
10:10 – 10:15	<b>Introducing the meeting: agenda and state of play of the TN</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introducing the activities and objectives of the meeting</li> <li>• Brief update on what has been done so far in the network.</li> </ul> <i>Louis Vervloet, General Director, Dept. of Work and Social Economy – Flanders</i> <i>Luca Santin, Thematic Expert of the TN</i>

Session I – Audit

10:15 – 11:15	<b>I.1 Proportionate control</b> Presentation on the key outcomes of the TN survey on 'proportionate control'. On the basis of the responses provided by the Audit Authorities, this session will aim to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discuss how verifications carried out in application of national procedures could work in practice</li> <li>- Assess the potential discrepancies between national and EU standards and requirements to carry out management verifications</li> </ul> <i>Mark Schelfhout, Head of Unit, EC – DG EMPL, Unit G/2 "Audit Shared Management I"</i>
11:15 – 11:45	<b>I.2 TN guide on ex-ante assessment</b> Presentation of the TN guide on 'ex-ante assessment of SCOs' and draft Terms of Reference. <i>Luca Santin and members of the TN subgroup on 'Audit'</i>
11:45 – 12:00	Coffee

Session II – Administrative costs and result-based approaches

12:00 – 13:00	<p><b>II.1 Administrative costs (and gold-plating practices): what solutions?</b></p> <p>On the basis of the outcomes of the TN survey on ‘administrative costs’, the session aims to identify a preliminary set of practices/ countermeasures to reduce administrative costs and enhance the efficiency of ESF management and control. Gold-plating practices at national level will also be addressed in the discussion. In this session, the IT solutions implemented by Belgium Flanders to support simplification /reduction of administrative costs and burden will also be presented by Louis Vervloet.</p> <p><i>Presentations and discussion on the set of practices</i></p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	<p><b>II.2 “Result-based approaches”</b></p> <p>Presentation and discussion on the key outcomes of the TN survey on ‘result-based approaches’, covering the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overview of the practices carried out in the Member States</li> <li>- Aspects that have limited the uptake of result-based options</li> <li>- Consultations with stakeholders</li> <li>- Pros and Cons of result-based approaches</li> <li>- Scope (most/least suitable types of operations).</li> </ul> <p>The discussion will also be based on the outcomes of the workshop on ‘partnership and simplification for result-based approaches’, that will be held at the ESF Transnational Platform’s Conference (Brussels, 21 and 22 May). The session will include a preliminary discussion on Social Impact Bonds, based on the experience of the frontrunners on the subject.</p> <p><i>Presentations and discussion on the set of practices</i></p>
<b>Session III – Simplified Cost Options</b>	
15:00 – 15:30	<p><b>III.1 Off-the-shelf options: present and future</b></p> <p>This session will aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- present an overview of the options available under other Union Policies and to discuss their use within ESF operations (i.e. pursuant to the provisions of article 67(5)(b) CPR)</li> <li>- present the state of play of the actual and intended uptake of ‘EU level SCO’ in the Member States and discuss the possibility to cover other policy areas of ESF(+) OPs.</li> </ul> <p><i>Presentations by:</i>  <i>Michael Grosse, EC – DG EMPL, Unit F1 “ESF and FEAD: Policy and Legislation”</i>  <i>Colin Byrne, EC – DG BUDG, Unit D2 “Financial rules 2 and Programme management”</i></p> <p><i>Joint discussions (working groups)</i></p>
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee
15:45 – 17:00	III.1 Off-the-shelf options: present and future (cont.)
19:30	TN dinner

Day 2: Friday, 7th June	
9:15 – 9:45	<p><b>III.2 TN practical guide on SCOs</b></p> <p>Presentation of the 'TN practical guide on Simplified Cost Options'.</p> <p><i>Luca Santin and members of the TN subgroup on 'SCOs'</i></p>
<b>Session IV – Future of Simplification</b>	
9:45 – 11:30	<p><b>IV.1 Simplification post 2020</b></p> <p>Based on the responses provided by TN members to the preliminary survey on 'post-2020', this session will aim to discuss the practical implementation of the key provisions for simplification for the 2021-2027 period, with particular (but not exclusive) attention for the simplified forms of reimbursement/financing (i.e. art. 88 and 89 of the Common Provisions).</p> <p><i>Joint discussion with representatives of the European Commission (DG EMPL and DG BUDG), Member States and stakeholders</i></p>
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee
11:45 – 12:45	<p><b>IV.2 The future of 'our' network</b></p> <p>Our network now involves over 100 representatives of ESF Managing Authorities, Audit Authorities, National Coordination Units, ministries and stakeholders from 27 Member States, as well as several DGs and Units of the European Commission. It has been widely recognised as a key forum for discussing concrete ideas and proposals around simplification in the ESF at European level.</p> <p>This session aims to capitalise on the main achievements of the TN and, more importantly, to reflect and discuss the structure and functioning of the TN in the coming years to simplify the work (and life) of ESF authorities and stakeholders. Actions to be carried out within the TN (such as peer-to-peer trainings, update of SCO practices, new proposals for simplification) will also be discussed.</p> <p><i>All participants</i></p>
12:45 – 13:00	<p><b>IV.3 Work Plan &amp; next meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recap of the main decisions, ideas and proposals</li> <li>• Planning the next meeting and activities</li> <li>• Updating the TN's Work Plan</li> </ul> <p><i>Louis Vervloet and Luca Santin</i></p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch