

ESF Thematic Network on Simplification

13th meeting in Tallinn, Estonia – 15th-16th October 2019

AGENDA

Day 1: Tuesday, 15th October

09:30 – 10:00	<p>Welcome coffee and registration at venue (Nordic Hotel Forum, Viru väljak 3 (Google maps), 10111 Tallinn. 2nd floor, room Sirius)</p>
10:00 – 10:10	<p>Welcome by the host Member State <i>Rait Kuuse, Deputy Secretary General on Social Policy, Ministry of Social Affairs – Estonia</i></p>
10:10 – 10:20	<p>Introducing the meeting: agenda and state of play of the TN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing the activities and objectives of the meeting • Brief update on what has been done so far in the network. <p><i>Louis Vervloet, General Director, Dept. of Work and Social Economy – Flanders</i> <i>Luca Santin, Thematic Expert of the TN</i></p>
Session I – SCO & Audit: present and future	
10:20 – 11:30	<p>I.1 Guidance on SCOs and updates on Audit</p> <p>Within this session, representatives of DG EMPL will present updates on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EC Guidance note on Simplified Cost Options - Audit and ex ante assessment of SCOs, on the basis of the outcomes of the homologues meeting in Zagreb <p>The contents of the presentations will be discussed with participants with the aim to pave the way for the preparation of the TN guides on SCO and Audit.</p> <p><i>Presentations by representatives of EC-DG EMPL and joint discussion</i></p>
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	<p>I.2 Findings and lessons learned from the assessment of SCO methodologies</p> <p>On the basis of the experience developed in assessing proposals under art. 14(1) of the ESF Regulation, this session aims to present the most frequent types of comments and findings on SCO methodologies discussed between the EC and the Member States. The point will be addressed both from 'Policy and Legislation' (Unit F1) and 'Audit' (Unit G2) perspectives.</p> <p><i>Presentations by representatives of EC-DG EMPL and joint discussion</i></p>

13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	<p>I.3 SCOs in 2021-2027</p> <p>This session aims to move forward with discussions on SCOs for the next programming period.</p> <p>Following a brief update on the state of play of the negotiations for the 2021-2027 period, the structure of template (i.e. Annex V) to submit proposals for adoption of SCOs under art. 88 of the CPR will be presented and discussed.</p> <p>The session will also include a brief update on 'EU level SCOs' for the next programming period.</p> <p><i>Presentations by representatives of EC-DG EMPL and joint discussion</i></p>
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee
Session II – Wider scope for a wider TN	
15:45 – 17:00	<p>II.1 Wider scope: different topics and tasks for the TN</p> <p>At the 12th meeting of the network (Hamburg, June 2019), TN members have been invited to reflect and discuss the structure and functioning of the TN in the coming years. The outcomes of the discussion indicate that all TN members express a clear demand for widening the scope of the network, by dedicating more attention and efforts to other topics than SCOs and Audit. This approach, which is fully consistent with the mission of the TN, would allow to enhance the added value and impact of the network, which has been already recognised as a key forum for discussing proposals and solutions on simplification at European Level.</p> <p>Against this background, the rationale of this session is to identify a first set of concrete actions that could be carried out by the TN in next years to simplify the work (and life) of ESF authorities and stakeholders. Participants will be invited to discuss, in groups, the practical solutions implemented by the Member States around the key tasks covered by the TN survey on 'Administrative costs and burden' as well as other solutions (or issues) which would be proposed by TN members at the meeting.</p> <p><i>Working groups</i></p>
19:30	TN dinner

Day 2: Wednesday, 16th October

9:15 – 10:15	<p>II.2 Wider network</p> <p>Further to 'widening the scope of the TN', in terms of topics and actions to address and carry out, a second relevant indication that emerged from the 12th meeting is to strengthen and develop more the link between the TN and national authorities and stakeholders, as well as to enhance coordination at national level.</p> <p>This session would aim to discuss concrete actions that could be carried out by the TN in order to:</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify which authorities and stakeholders and/or networks should be linked to the TN - Investigate how discussions/decisions on SCO and simplification are coordinated at national level - Disseminate practices, results and knowledge achieved and developed within the TN and collect further ideas and suggestions from the stakeholders <p><i>Presentations by Luca Santin and TN members and joint discussion</i></p>
10:15 – 11:15	<p>II.3 Social Impact Investments and result-based approaches</p> <p>Estonia has been developing a proposal on the use of result-based forms of social impact investments, which has been briefly discussed at the last meeting of the TN's subgroup on 'Financial Instruments' and further developed by the colleagues of the Host Member States. The updated proposal will be presented to pave the way for further discussions on approaches and instruments to be potentially implemented by the Member States.</p> <p><i>Presentation by the Host Member State</i></p>
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee
Session III – Peer to peer training and support	
11:30 – 12:50	<p>III.1 Setting up the TN's peer to peer support</p> <p>Setting up peer-to-peer training actions between MSs has been identified by all (3) TN's subgroups (on 'SCOs', 'Audit' and 'Financial Instruments') as a very effective solution to share knowledge and build capacity across Europe. This session will be dedicated to discuss on how this would work in practice and what possibilities could be available to support the process. A preliminary analysis of supply and demand for support (who will train/support who? On what specific aspects?) will be carried out at and after the meeting.</p> <p><i>Joint discussion and planning</i></p>
12:50 – 13:00	<p>Work Plan & 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>Louis Vervloet and Luca Santin</i></p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch