

Outline Agenda

ESF Simplification Thematic Network – 9th meeting

Hosted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic

26-27 June, 2018 – Prague

Venue: Akademie veřejného investování, Pařížská 935/4, Prague 1

Day 1: Tuesday, 26th June	
9:30 – 10:00	Registration and welcome coffee
10:00 – 10:10	Welcome by the Host Member State <i>Jiří Kinský (Director, ESF Programmes Management Department)</i>
10:10 – 10:25	Presenting the Thematic Network and the agenda of the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Introducing the TN to representatives of the Audit Authorities</i>• <i>Presenting the activities and objectives of the meeting</i> <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 / PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN MA & AA	
10:25 – 11:30	I.1 – State of play and future of Audit at European level <i>This session aims to introduce the main theme of the meeting by presenting and discussing the state of play and key recommendations on Audit, on the basis of the draft position paper prepared by DG EMPL.</i> <i>Particular attention will be dedicated to presenting the importance of setting up collaborative schemes between Audit Authorities and Managing Authorities, with a focus on simplified cost option.</i> <i>Mark Schelfhout (Head of Unit, EC – DG EMPL, Unit G/2 “Audit Shared Management I”)</i>
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	I.2 – Good practices of collaboration between Managing and Audit Authorities <i>On the basis of the final version of the “Case reports on Partnership between MA & AA”, representatives of the two authorities will co-present concrete examples of dialogue and successful collaboration, highlighting the added value in terms of legal certainty and enhanced simplification.</i> <i>The following points will be addressed:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Key preconditions and actions (i.e. what does it take to develop a partnership approach)</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Main challenges, issues and solutions</i> • <i>Outcomes and results (added value of partnership)</i> • <i>What lessons have you learned and what recommendations would you share with your colleagues (both MAs and AAs) from other MSs and with the EC</i> <p><i>Presented by representatives of Managing and Audit Authorities of the Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Estonia, Sweden and Portugal</i></p>
13:00 – 14:00	Sandwich lunch
14:00 – 15:30	<p>I.3 – Developing partnership: looking at issues (from different perspectives)</p> <p><i>This session aims to identify the key challenges and issues that could hinder the development of a partnership approach between MA and AA.</i></p> <p><i>Participants will be divided into groups of homologues (i.e. representatives of AAs and MAs will be in separate 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?).</i></p> <p><i>The challenges/issues and related reasons identified by the groups will be clustered into a few key points that will be addressed in the following part.</i></p> <p><i>Working groups</i></p>
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee
16:45 – 17:15	<p>I.4 – Developing partnership: shared solutions</p> <p><i>As opposed to issues, solutions will be discussed in groups composed of both MA and AA representatives (as we would need to identified shared solutions, valid for all actors of the partnership).</i></p> <p><i>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 made by each partner (i.e. what should AAs or MAs do/not do?)</i></p> <p><i>During the working group sessions, representatives of MAs and AAs from NL, EE, UK-NI, SE and PT (i.e. the 5 best practices) will join the groups to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Support the clear definition and prioritisation of issues and challenges</i> - <i>Facilitate the identification of shared solutions</i> <p><i>Working groups and joint discussion</i></p>
17:15 -17:30	<p>I.5 – Conclusions and next steps</p> <p><i>The outcomes of the group and joint discussions will be used as a reference for the TN sub-group on “Audit” to set up actions and proposals on the Audit theme, after the 9th meeting.</i></p> <p><i>Joint planning facilitated by members of the sub-group on “Audit”</i></p>
19:30	TN Dinner

Day 2: Wednesday, 27th June	
SESSION II – TN SUB-GROUPS	
9:15 – 10:15	<p>II.1 – “Post 2020”: Draft Regulations</p> <p><i>This session aims to introduce the discussion on simplification beyond 2020 on the basis of the proposals presented by the European Commission for the 2021-2027 period. The outcomes of the session will help to define the priorities for the TN sub-group on “Post 2020”</i></p> <p><i>Presented by representatives of the European Commission – DG EMPL</i></p>
10:15 – 10:45	<p>II.2 – “SCOs” – Managing different reimbursement bases under art 14(1) ESF</p> <p><i>Art. 14(1) of the ESF Regulation provides that Member States can apply their accounting practices to support operations. This allows for differences between the relationship between the Commission and the Member State and the relationship between the Member State and the beneficiary. In this session, experiences on how different reimbursement bases have been managed in practice will be presented and discussed.</i></p> <p><i>Cases presented by MS representatives</i></p>
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee
11:00 – 12:00	<p>II.3 – Selecting priorities and actions for the sub-group on “SCOs”</p> <p><i>At the 8th TN Meeting in Athens (March 2018) we discussed and approved the proposal to set up TN sub-groups dedicated to specific themes and topics. The experience of the first TN sub-group (on Audit) has already demonstrated that the proposal is sustainable and generates added value for the TN, in terms of more focused discussion and actions.</i></p> <p><i>This session aims to discuss and select the key priorities and actions for the sub-group on “Simplified Cost Options” (e.g. concrete implementation of 1720 hr option, additional EU-level SCOs, enhanced guidance (notes), use of SCOs applied in other Union policies, database of art 14(1) practices (fiches), etc ...).</i></p> <p><i>Joint discussion and planning</i></p>
12:00 – 12:30	<p>II.4 – Introducing the sub-theme “Financial Instruments”</p> <p><i>This session aims to introduce “Financial Instruments” as a sub-theme for the TN, by presenting and discussing on concrete experiences in the MS.</i></p> <p><i>Presented by Aleksandra Dmitruk (Ministry of Economic Development – Poland)</i></p>
12:30 – 12:50	<p>II.5 – Innovative projects from TN members</p> <p><i>“One Cost” is a project resulting from the Protocol of Collaboration between the Portuguese government (through the Ministry of Presidency and Administrative Modernisation) and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, through the Maze (former Social Investment Laboratory), which aims to centralise, standardise and provide data regarding the cost of Portugal’s entrenched social problems.</i></p> <p><i>The project aims to organise information capable of promoting an improvement of national social services, especially those that are financed by public funds – either by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the answers themselves, or by reviewing and</i></p>

	<p><i>updating the financing mechanisms.</i></p> <p><i>Data contained in this platform has the potential to improve public service commissioning and public service reform, informing public policy and a more efficient use of public funds.</i></p> <p><i>Presented by PT representatives</i></p>
SESSION III – TN’S FUTURE & WORK PLAN	
12:50 – 13:00	<p>III.1 – Updating the Work Plan & planning the next meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recap of the main decisions, ideas and proposals</i> • <i>Planning the next meeting and activities</i> • <i>Updating the TN’s Work Plan</i> <p><i>Louis Vervloet (General Director, Dept. of Work and Social Economy – Flanders)</i> <i>Luca Santin (Thematic Expert of the TN)</i></p>
13:00 – 14:00	Sandwich lunch