

Outline Agenda

ESF Simplification Thematic Network – 8th meeting

Hosted by the Greek Ministry of Economy and Development / General Secretariat for
Public Investments and NSRF

15-16 March, 2018 – Athens

Venue: Titania Hotel –52 Panepistimiou, 10678 Athens

| Day 1: Thursday, 15th March | |
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| 9:30 – 10:00 | Registration and welcome coffee |
| 10:00 – 10:10 | Welcome by the Host Member State <i>Ioannis Firbas (General Director, National Coordination Authority for ESIF)</i> |
| 10:10 – 10:20 | Introducing the Meeting: Agenda and State of Play of the TN <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Introducing the activities and objectives of the meeting</i>• <i>Brief update on what has been done so far in the Network</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 – EU LEVEL SIMPLIFIED COST OPTIONS | |
| 10:20 – 11:00 | EU level SCOs on Employment pathways and Training (and updates on Education) <i>This sessions aims to present the final report from consultants on EU Level SCOs covering:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>In-formal training for people in employment</i>- <i>Training for unemployed</i>- <i>Employment Pathway</i>- <i>Next steps into the implementation of these EU-level SCOs</i> <i>Updates on the Delegated Act on Education will be also presented and discussed.</i> <i>Presentations by EC representatives</i> |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | EU Level SCOs “on the ground” <i>Following the presentation by EC representatives, participants will be invited to discuss in groups about the concrete implications of the report on EU Level SCO within the ESF OPs. Members will be invited to identify if and where they feel the EU level SCOs as set out could be used in their OPs.</i> <i>All participants - working groups</i> |
| 11:30 – 11:45 | Coffee |

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| 11:45 – 13:00 | <p>EU Level SCOs “on the ground” (cont.)</p> <p><i>The groups will report back in plenary. The implications identified by the groups will be discussed to try ensure a wide and effective use of EU Level SCOs, taking into account the actual hurdles and proposals pointed out by the TN Members.</i></p> <p><i>All participants - working groups & joint discussion</i></p> |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | Sandwich lunch |
| SESSION II – AUDIT | |
| 14:00 – 15:45 | <p>State of play, good practices and proposals</p> <p><i>Capitalising on the good practices identified and discussed at the 6th meeting, participants will be invited to discuss about:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>How to set up collaborative relationships between Managing Authorities and Audit Authorities</i> - <i>What concrete options could be implemented to simplify the audit systems and processes (e.g. what criteria for the concrete implementation of the single audit principle)</i> <p><i>Presentations and joint discussion</i></p> |
| 15:45 – 16:00 | Coffee |
| 16:00 – 17:00 | <p>Organising the meeting with the Audit Authorities</p> <p><i>Representatives from the national Audit Authorities would be invited to participate at the 9th Meeting of the ESF Simplification TN.</i></p> <p><i>Thus, this session aims to pave the way for the joint meeting by discussing on how to set up and organise the event.</i></p> <p><i>Joint planning</i></p> |
| 19:30 | TN Dinner |

| Day 2: Friday, 16th March | |
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| SESSION III – SCOs IN PRACTICE | |
| 9:15 – 10:45 | <p>Draft Budget</p> <p><i>This session aims to discuss on how draft budgets could be used in practice to design and implement SCOs. Practical examples from the MS will be presented and discussed, to identify potential pitfalls and recommendations related to the use of this measure.</i></p> <p><i>Presentation of concrete examples on the use of draft budget and joint discussion</i></p> |
| 10:45 – 11:00 | Coffee |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | <p>SCO practices & guidance note on Simplified cost options</p> <p><i>This session aims to finalise the peer review of the Case Reports on SCO practices and to provide inputs for the update of the Guidance note on Simplified cost options.</i></p> <p><i>Working groups and joint discussion</i></p> |
| SESSION IV – TN'S FUTURE & WORK PLAN | |
| 12:00 – 12:50 | <p>Ideas for the (sustainable) future of the TN</p> <p><i>The ESF Simplification TN now involves representatives from 26 Member States, several DGs and Units of the European Commission, and Stakeholders at European Level and represents a key forum for discussion on concrete ideas and proposals around simplification in ESF (and ESIF). This session aims to set up a preliminary discussion about the structure and functioning of the TN for the next years, simplifying administration for beneficiaries in the total line and life of a project.</i></p> <p><i>Joint discussion</i></p> |
| 12:50 – 13:00 | <p>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 |