

Outline Agenda

ESF Simplification Thematic Network – 6th meeting

Hosted by the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment - Agentschap SZW

8-9 June, 2017 – The Hague

Venue(s):

- **Day 1 (June 8th)** *Social and Economic Council (SER)* - Bezuidenhoutseweg 60, 2594 AW Den Haag
- **Day 2 (June 9th)** *Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment* - Parnassusplein 5, 2511 VX Den Haag

Day 1: Thursday, 8th June	
9:30 – 10:00	Registration and welcome coffee
10:00 – 10:10	Welcome by the Host Member State <i>Wilbert van de Griendt (Director of Agentschap SZW - Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment - The Netherlands)</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 – PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN MANAGING AUTHORITIES AND AUDIT AUTHORITIES	
10:20 – 11:30	Good practices of collaboration between Managing and Audit Authorities <i>Representatives of MAs and AAs will co-present examples of dialogue and successful collaboration, highlighting the added value in terms of legal certainty and better simplification.</i> <i>The following points will be addressed:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>How it has been possible to set up a collaborative scheme (i.e. what does it take to develop a partnership approach)</i>• <i>What main challenges and issues have been faced and what solutions have been found</i>• <i>What results and added value have been achieved through collaboration</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> <i>Presented by representatives of Managing and Audit Authorities of: The Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Estonia, Sweden and Portugal</i>
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee

11:45 – 12:30	<p>Capitalising on the good practices</p> <p><i>The (5) experiences presented in the previous part will be discussed, with the aim of identifying: key indications that could be derived from the good practices and solutions for their transfer into other contexts.</i></p> <p><i>All participants – joint discussion</i></p>
12:30 – 13:00	<p>Connections with the ESF Thematic Network on Partnership</p> <p><i>Presentation on the key activities that have been carried out by the ESF Thematic Network on Partnership and discussion on how the Simplification TN could contribute to the revision of the European code of conduct on partnership (ECCP).</i></p> <p><i>The overall purpose of the review is to explore partnership principles and practice in the context of the European Structural & Investment Funds (2014-2020).</i></p> <p><i>The review will result in a series of recommendations for the improvement of the ECCP in the next programming cycle.</i></p> <p><i>We will have the opportunity to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>contribute to the work of the Partnership TN, by offering good practice examples of how partnership principles can add value to programmes and positively impact on policy-making</i> - <i>Know more about the key principles of partnership and reflect on how these could be implemented in the framework of simplification</i> <p><i>Presented by Caroline Meyers (Dept. of Work and Social Economy - Flanders)</i></p>
13:00 – 14:00	Sandwich lunch
SESSION II – EU LEVEL SIMPLIFIED COST OPTIONS	
14:00 – 15:45	<p>EU level SCOs: state of play and next steps</p> <p><i>The session aims to present the state of play of this task and to discuss the issues and solutions related to the next steps, with a focus on the concrete implementation of the data collection process.</i></p> <p><i>The following points will be addressed:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Update on Education + Technical Assistance EU level SCOs</i> 2) <i>Training and Employment Pathway EU level SCO</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Presentation of Contractor to group and outline of proposed methodology</i> b. <i>Data availability and other issues – examples of Estonia and Northern Ireland</i> c. <i>Next steps of the process – Discussion</i> <p><i>Joint discussion facilitated by EC representatives</i></p>
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee

SESSION III – TN WORK PLAN

16:00 – 17:10	<p>New themes and topics for the TN</p> <p><i>Co-planning the next meetings and activities.</i></p> <p><i>The session aims to pave the way for the organisation of the next meetings and activities for the 3rd year of the TN. Although SCOs are a key topic for the TN, new themes and topics should be introduced in order to widen the scope of the network and to be fully consistent with the TN's mission.</i></p> <p><i>The hosting Ministry will introduce the topic "Suggestions for simplification in audit and management".</i></p> <p><i>A few topics have been identified at the TN's previous meetings and should be planned, such as: - JAPs - Irregularities/errors - Financial Instruments - Eligibility in terms of location - Omnibus (future of ESF and ESIF). The key outcomes of the ESF Conference in Malta (23-24 March 2017) and of the TNC Annual Conference (1-2 June, 2017) will be also discussed.</i></p> <p><i>All TN Members are invited to present ideas and proposals on additional themes and topics to be discussed in the next months.</i></p> <p><i>Joint discussion and planning</i></p>
17:10 – 17:30	<p>Legal Harmonisation and Gold Plating</p> <p><i>Presenting the short survey report on "How can the lack of legal harmonisation and gold plating represent an obstacle for a wider and better use of SCOs"</i></p> <p><i>Jenni Hyvärinen (Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland)</i> <i>Luca Santin (Thematic Expert of the TN)</i></p>
19:30	TN Dinner

Day 2: Friday, 9th June	
9:00 – 9:30	<p>State Aid: presenting the first results of the Survey on "State Aid Rules and ESF Projects"</p> <p><i>Presenting the key findings of the survey (coordinated by France). Identifying the main issues related to State Aid rules in ESF Projects. Sharing and discussing solutions and recommendations.</i></p> <p><i>Annabelle Kargl (Ministry of labour, employment, vocational training and social dialogue - France)</i></p>
SESSION IV - CASE REPORTS ON SCO PRACTICES	
9:30 – 10:30	<p>Case reports on SCO practices</p> <p><i>Peer review of the Case Reports on the SCO practices selected at the 5th Meeting of the TN.</i></p> <p><i>All participants - working groups</i></p>
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee
10:45 – 11:45	<p>Case reports on SCO practices (cont.)</p> <p><i>All participants - working groups</i></p>
11:45 – 12:45	<p>Presenting the results of the peer review of the case reports</p> <p><i>The groups report back in plenary session, presenting the results of the peer review, in terms of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>- Key aspects that have emerged from the reports</i> <i>- Main comments that should be taken into account for the publication of the reports</i> <p><i>1 Rapporteur per group reports back to the audience</i></p>
12:45 – 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 - 14:30	Sandwich lunch