



Transnational Network of ERDF/CF SCO practitioners

13th meeting of the Transnational Network (TN) of ERDF/CF SCO practitioners

9 - 10 March 2023 – Bucharest

Athénée Palace Bucharest - 1-3 Episcopiei Street, District 1, Bucharest, Romania

(website: [Athénée Palace Bucharest](#))

Agenda

Day 1: Thursday, 9 th March	
9:00 – 9:30 EET ¹	Registrations and welcome coffee
9:30 – 9:40 EET	Welcome by the host Member State <i>Lucian Dan Vlădescu (President of the Audit Authority, Romanian Court of Accounts)</i>
9:40 – 9:50 EET	Introduction to the meeting Introducing the agenda of the meeting: objectives and activities. <i>Emma Toledano Laredo (Director, EC-DG REGIO F 'Better implementation, Closure and Programme Implementation III')</i> <i>Luca Santin (Coordinator of the TN)</i>
SESSION I – Simplified Cost Options (SCOs)	
9:50 – 10:10 EET	I.1 - Introduction and updates on SCOs and EU Level SCOs Updates on the state of play of SCOs and overview of the two studies on EU Level SCOs launched by DG REGIO. <i>Presentation by representatives of EC-DG REGIO F.1 'Better implementation and closure'</i>
10:10 – 10:40 EET	I.2 - Interesting practices and proposals on SCO-relevant topics Presenting practices and proposals developed by the Member States around the key SCO-relevant topics selected at the 12 th meeting of the TN. <i>Presentations by TN members.</i>
10:40 – 11:15 EET	I.3 - Next steps on SCOs – group discussions The purpose of this session is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Select the most interesting SCO practices among those included in the mapping carried out by the TN▪ Identify key issues and questions around SCOs to be addressed by the Commission and the TN. <i>Group discussions.</i>

¹ Eastern European Time

11:15 – 11:30 EET	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:00 EET	<p>I.4 - Next steps on SCOs – panel discussion</p> <p>Outcomes of group discussions carried out in session I.3 are presented in plenary and addressed in a panel discussion with representatives of the European Commission and TN members.</p> <p><i>Panel discussion with representatives of EC-DG REGIO F.1 'Better implementation and closure', REGIO-EMPL Joint Audit Directorate for Cohesion, EC-DG EMPL G.1 'European Social Fund +' and TN members.</i></p>
SESSION II – Financing Not Linked to Costs (FNLC)	
12:00 – 12:30 EET	<p>II.1 - Financing Not Linked to Costs</p> <p>Possibilities for wider uptake of Financing Not Linked to Costs (FNLC).</p> <p><i>Representatives of EC-DG REGIO F.1 'Better implementation and closure' and TN members</i></p>
12:30 – 13:00 EET	<p>II.2 – How assurance is provided when implementing FNLC</p> <p>Presenting a draft explanatory note on the application of 95 (3) CPR - how assurance is provided when implementing a Financing Not Linked to Costs (FNLC) scheme</p> <p><i>Presentation by representatives of EC - REGIO-EMPL Joint Audit Directorate for Cohesion.</i></p>
13:00 – 14:15 EET	Lunch break
SESSION III – Audit	
14:15 – 14:35 EET	<p>III.1 - Introduction on auditing SCOs</p> <p>The purpose of this session is to introduce the topic of auditing SCOs.</p> <p><i>Presentation by representatives of EC - REGIO-EMPL Joint Audit Directorate for Cohesion.</i></p>
14:35 – 15:05 EET	<p>III.2 - Good practices on SCOs audit and ex-ante assessment</p> <p>Presenting good practices on audit and ex ante assessment developed by ERDF/CF authorities.</p> <p><i>Presentations by TN members.</i></p>
15:05 – 15:40 EET	<p>III.3 – Challenges related to SCOs audit and ex ante assessment – group discussions</p> <p>Addressing good and not-so-good practices and identifying solutions to move forward on SCOs audit and ex ante assessment.</p> <p><i>Group discussions.</i></p>
15:40 – 16:05 EET	Coffee break
16:05 – 16:45 EET	<p>III.4 - Moving forward on SCOs audit and ex ante assessment – panel discussions</p> <p>Outcomes of group discussions carried out in session III.3 are presented in plenary and addressed in a panel discussion with representatives of the European Commission and TN members.</p> <p><i>Panel discussion with representatives of EC-DG REGIO F.1 'Better implementation and closure', REGIO-EMPL Joint Audit Directorate for Cohesion, EC-DG EMPL G.1 'European Social Fund +' and TN members</i></p>
19:30 EET	TN dinner

Day 2: Friday, 10th March

9:00 – 9:30
EET

Registrations and welcome coffee

SESSION IV – Simplification

9:30 – 10:00
EET

IV.1 - Risk-based management verifications

Overview of the preliminary maps of practices on risk-based management verifications (RBMV) and outcomes of the 2nd meeting of the TN's working group on RBMV.

Members of the working group on RBMV

10:00 – 10:15
EET

IV.2 - Digitalisation practices

Overview of the preliminary maps of practices on digitalisation.

Presentation by representatives of EC-DG REGIO F.1 'Better implementation and closure' and Luca Santin (Coordinator of the TN) and TN members.

10:15 – 10:45
EET

IV.3 - Simplification of processes in EU Funds management

Presenting the study carried out by Portugal to simplify and review the European funds management organisational models

Presentation by Portugal.

10:45 – 11:15
EET

IV.4 - Cooperation between managing authorities and beneficiaries for simplification

Presenting good practices of collaboration between managing authorities and beneficiaries to enhance simplification and better implementation of the ERDF/CF programmes

Presentation by TN members.

11:15 – 11:30
EET

Coffee break

11:30 – 12:10
EET

IV.5 - Moving forward on simplification – group discussions

Participants discuss in groups on how to (i) further simplify processes in EU Funds management and (i) enhance collaboration between authorities and beneficiaries in ERDF/CF programmes, also capitalising on the good practices developed by other Member States.

Group discussions.

12:10 – 12:45
EET

IV.6 - Moving forward on simplification – panel discussions

Outcomes of group discussions carried out in session IV.5 are presented in plenary and addressed in a panel discussion with representatives of the European Commission and TN members.

Panel discussion with representatives of EC-DG REGIO F.1 'Better implementation and closure', REGIO-EMPL Joint Audit Directorate for Cohesion, EC-DG EMPL G.1 'European Social Fund +' and TN members.

SESSION V – Next steps

12:45 – 12:55 EET	V.1 - Updating the Work Plan & planning the next meetings <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. <i>Luca Santin (Coordinator of the TN)</i>
12:55 – 13:00 EET	Closing remarks <i>Charlie Grant (Head of Unit, EC-DG REGIO F.1 'Better implementation and closure').</i>
13:00 – 14:00 EET	Lunch