



## Joint meeting of the ‘ESF Transnational Network on Simplification’ and ‘DG REGIO Transnational Network on Simplification’

**20 - 21 June 2024, Brussels**

Venue: Hilton Double Tree Hotel – Rue Gineste 3, 1210 Brussels

([Hilton Double Tree hotel](#))

### Outline Agenda

Day 1 – Thursday, 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	
8.45 – 9.30 CEST <sup>1</sup>	<b>Registrations and welcome coffee</b>
9.30 – 9.45 CEST	<b>Welcome by the host Member State</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Véronique Lesne (Directrice – Agence Fonds social européen)</i></li> </ul>
9.45 – 10.10 CEST	<b>Opening remarks by the European Commission</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Andriana Sukova (Deputy Director-General DG EMPL) and Nicola De Michelis (Acting Deputy Director-General DG REGIO)</i></li> </ul>
10.10 – 10.20 CEST	<b>Introducing the agenda</b> <p>Introducing the agenda of the meeting: objectives and activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Luca Santin, Coordinator, ‘ESF Transnational Network on Simplification’ and ‘DG REGIO Transnational Network on Simplification’</i></li> </ul>
Session 1 – Future of simplification	
10.20 – 11.00 CEST	<b>1.1 The position paper and road maps on the future of simplification prepared by the ESF Transnational Network (TN) on Simplification</b> <p>Presenting the position paper and the road maps on the future of simplification (post 2027) prepared by the ESF TN on Simplification. The session also serves to present the rationale and functioning of the subsequent world café session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Members of the ESF TN on Simplification and Luca Santin</i></li> </ul>
11.00 – 11.30 CEST	<b>Coffee break</b>

<sup>1</sup> Central European Summer Time

<b>11.30 – 12.45 CEST</b>	<b>1.2 World café on the future of simplification</b> Participants discuss in a world café session around the road maps for <i>no more real costs</i> and for <i>developing result-based programmes</i> in post 2027. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>World café</i></li> </ul>
<b>12.45 – 14.00 CEST</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14.00 – 15.15 CEST</b>	<b>1.3 Panel discussion on the future of simplification</b> The outcomes of the world café session are discussed in plenary. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Panel discussion with representatives of the European Commission (Ruth Paserman - Director DG EMPL, Emma Toledano Laredo - Director DG REGIO, Benoit Nadler - Deputy HoU REGIO.B1, Franck Sébert - Director REGIO-EMPL Joint Audit Directorate for Cohesion) and TN members</i></li> </ul>
<b>Session 2 – Audit</b>	
<b>15.15 – 16.00 CEST</b>	<b>Opening remarks by Franck Sébert (Director REGIO-EMPL Joint Audit Directorate for Cohesion)</b> <b>2.1 Sharing of audit experience</b> Introducing the discussion on audit and sharing of audit experience from Cohesion policy and the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Representatives of REGIO-EMPL Joint Audit Directorate for Cohesion and ECFIN audit unit</i></li> </ul>
<b>16.00 – 16.30 CEST</b>	<b>2.2 Group discussion</b> Participants discuss in groups about the main questions around audit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Group discussion</i></li> </ul>
<b>16.30 – 16.55 CEST</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>16.55 – 17.30 CEST</b>	<b>2.3 Panel discussion</b> The outcomes of the group discussions carried out in session 2.2 are discussed in plenary. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Panel discussion with representatives of REGIO-EMPL Joint Audit Directorate for Cohesion and TN members</i></li> </ul>
<b>19.30 CEST</b>	<b>TNs dinner</b>

## Day 2 – Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024

9.00 – 9.30  
CEST  
**Registrations and welcome coffee**

### Session 3 – Simplified Cost Options (SCO) and Financing Not Linked to Costs (FNLC)

9.30 – 9.50  
CEST  
**3.1 Study on the use of SCOs and FNLC**  
Presenting the preliminary outcomes of the EC '*Study on the uptake of Simplified Cost Options (SCO) and Financing Not Linked to Costs (FNLC) for the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) Funds in the 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 programming periods*'.

- *Representatives of DG REGIO, DG EMPL and REGIO-EMPL Joint Audit Directorate for Cohesion*

9.50 – 10.30  
CEST  
**3.2 Updated EC Guidance on SCO**  
Presenting the key contents of the updated EC Guidance on SCO.

- *Representatives of DG REGIO, DG EMPL and REGIO-EMPL Joint Audit Directorate for Cohesion*

### Session 4 – Risk-based management verifications

10.30 – 11.00  
CEST  
**4.1 Introduction on risk-based management verifications**  
Presenting the state of play on risk-based management verifications based on the tasks carried out by the two networks, the work of the two TN subgroups and the outcomes of the multi-country workshop held in conjunction with the TNs' meeting.

- *Representatives of DG REGIO, DG EMPL and REGIO-EMPL Joint Audit Directorate for Cohesion, members of the TNs' subgroups on risk-based management verifications*

11.00 – 11.30  
CEST  
**4.2 Group discussions on risk-based management verifications**  
Participants discuss in groups about the main challenges and questions around risk-based management verifications.

- *Group discussions*

11.30 – 12.00  
CEST  
**Coffee break**

12.00 – 12.45  
CEST  
**4.3 Panel discussion on risk-based management verifications**  
The outcomes of the group discussions carried out in session 4.2 are discussed in plenary.

- *Panel discussion with representatives of DG REGIO, DG EMPL and REGIO-EMPL Joint Audit Directorate for Cohesion and TN members*

12.45 – 13.00  
CEST  
**Next steps and concluding remarks**

- *Planning the next meetings and activities of the two networks*
- *Concluding remarks*

13.00 – 14.00  
CEST  
**Lunch**