



Transnational Network of ERDF/CF SCO practitioners

## 13<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> March	
9:00 – 9:30 EET <sup>1</sup>	<b>Registrations and welcome coffee</b>
9:30 – 9:40 EET	<b>Welcome by the host Member State</b> <i>Lucian Dan Vlădescu (President of the Audit Authority, Romanian Court of Accounts)</i>
9:40 – 9:50 EET	<b>Introduction to the meeting</b> 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	<b>I.1 - Introduction and updates on SCOs and EU Level SCOs</b> 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	<b>I.2 - Interesting practices and proposals on SCO-relevant topics</b> Presenting practices and proposals developed by the Member States around the key SCO-relevant topics selected at the 12 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the TN. <i>Presentations by TN members.</i>
10:40 – 11:15 EET	<b>I.3 - Next steps on SCOs – group discussions</b> The purpose of this session is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Select the most interesting SCO practices among those included in the mapping carried out by the TN</li><li>▪ Identify key issues and questions around SCOs to be addressed by the Commission and the TN.</li></ul> <i>Group discussions.</i>

<sup>1</sup> Eastern European Time

11:15 – 11:30 EET	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:30 – 12:00 EET	<p><b>I.4 - Next steps on SCOs – panel discussion</b></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>
<b>SESSION II – Financing Not Linked to Costs (FNLC)</b>	
12:00 – 12:30 EET	<p><b>II.1 - Financing Not Linked to Costs</b></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><b>II.2 – How assurance is provided when implementing FNLC</b></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	<b>Lunch break</b>
<b>SESSION III – Audit</b>	
14:15 – 14:35 EET	<p><b>III.1 - Introduction on auditing SCOs</b></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><b>III.2 - Good practices on SCOs audit and ex-ante assessment</b></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><b>III.3 – Challenges related to SCOs audit and ex ante assessment – group discussions</b></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	<b>Coffee break</b>
16:05 – 16:45 EET	<p><b>III.4 - Moving forward on SCOs audit and ex ante assessment – panel discussions</b></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	<b>TN dinner</b>

## Day 2: Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

<b>12:45 – 12:55</b> <b>EET</b>	<b>V.1 - Updating the Work Plan &amp; planning the next meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Recap of the main decisions, ideas and proposals.</li><li>▪ Planning the next meeting and activities.</li><li>▪ Updating the TN's Work Plan.</li></ul> <i>Luca Santin (Coordinator of the TN)</i>
<b>12:55 – 13:00</b> <b>EET</b>	<b>Closing remarks</b> <i>Charlie Grant (Head of Unit, EC-DG REGIO F.1 'Better implementation and closure').</i>
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b> <b>EET</b>	<b>Lunch</b>