



ESF Transnational Cooperation Platform

21st meeting of the ESF Transnational Network (TN) on Simplification

5-6 July 2023, Angra do Heroísmo, Terceira Island, Azores

Venue: Terceira Mar Hotel, Portões de São Pedro, nº 1
9700-097 Angra do Heroísmo (Terceira Island, Azores, Portugal)

(<https://www.bensaudehotels.com/en/terceiramarhotel>)

Final agenda

Objectives of the event:

- Presenting the state of play of Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) under article 53 of the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR).
- Sharing and discussing SCO practices, with particular focus on data collection and data analysis processes to support the development of SCO methodologies.
- Presenting and discussing draft proposals for Financing Not Linked to Costs (FNLC) schemes under article 95 CPR developed by ESF+ authorities.
- Sharing the key outcomes from the map of practices on risk-based management verifications (RBMV) prepared by members of the ESF Transnational Network on Simplification (TN) and presenting the final version of the recommendation paper prepared by the TN working group on RBMV.
- Presenting innovative approaches and practices on digitalisation and simplification of processes in EU Funds management.
- Introducing the topic of 'coordinating simplification' at national level.
- Presenting and discussing on the concrete implementation of the TN work programme for 2023 – 2024.

Day 1 – Wednesday, 5th July 2023

09.00 – 09.30 AZOST ¹	Registrations and welcome coffee
09.30 – 09.40 AZOST	Welcome by the host Member State <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Nuno Alves, Regional Director for Planning and Structural Funds - MA Açores 2030</i>
09.40 – 09.50 AZOST	Introduction to the meeting <p>Introducing the agenda of the meeting: objectives and activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Mita Talenti, EC-DG EMPL G.1 'European Social Fund +'</i>▪ <i>Luca Santin, Coordinator, 'ESF Transnational Network on Simplification'</i>

¹ Azores Summer Time

Session 1 – Simplified Cost Options (SCOs)

09.50 – 10.05 AZOST	1.1 Introduction and updates on SCOs State of play and updates on SCOs and overview of the new maps of SCO practices under article 53 of the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) prepared by TN members. <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Mita Talenti, EC-DG EMPL G.1 'European Social Fund +'</i>▪ <i>Luca Santin, Coordinator, 'ESF Transnational Network on Simplification'</i>
10.05 – 10.35 AZOST	1.2 Audit of SCOs Presenting examples of audit findings related to SCOs during the 2014-2020 programming period and addressing questions from the audience. <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Veronica Cotea, REGIO-EMPL Joint Audit Directorate for Cohesion</i>
10.35 – 11.00 AZOST	1.3 Focus on data collection and data analysis This session is dedicated to presenting practices and proposals for the design and implementation of SCOs. <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Members of the ESF Transnational Network on Simplification</i>
11.00 – 11.35 AZOST	1.4 Group discussions on SCOs Participants discuss in groups how to move forward with SCOs in ESF+ programmes. <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Group discussions</i>
11.35 – 12.00 AZOST	Coffee break
12.00 – 12.45 AZOST	1.5 Panel discussions on SCOs Key outcomes of group discussions carried out in session 1.4 are addressed in a panel discussion with representatives of the European Commission. <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Panel discussion with representatives of EC-DG EMPL G.1 'European Social Fund +', REGIO-EMPL Joint Audit Directorate for Cohesion and TN members.</i>
12.45 – 14.00 AZOST	Lunch break

Session 2 – Financing Not Linked to Costs

14.00 – 14.15 AZOST	2.1 Introduction and updates on FNLC Updates on the state of play of proposals submitted by the Member States under article 95 CPR and reminder on how assurance is provided when implementing FNLC. <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Mita Talenti, EC-DG EMPL G.1 'European Social Fund +'</i>▪ <i>Veronica Cotea, REGIO-EMPL Joint Audit Directorate for Cohesion</i>
14.15 – 14.30 AZOST	2.2 Q&A on FNLC Addressing questions from the audience on FNLC. <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Q&A session in plenary</i>

14.30 – 15.00 AZOST	<p>2.3 FNLC in practice</p> <p>Presenting and discussing draft proposals for FNLC under article 95 CPR prepared by TN members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Presentations by TN members</i>
15.00 – 15.40 AZOST	<p>2.4 Group discussions on FNLC</p> <p>Participants discuss in groups how to move forward on FNLC in ESF+ programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Group discussions</i>
15.40 – 16.05 AZOST	<p>Coffee break</p>
16.05 – 16.45 AZOST	<p>2.5 Panel discussion on FNLC</p> <p>Key outcomes of group discussions carried out in session 2.4 are addressed in a panel discussion with representatives of the European Commission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Panel discussion with representatives of EC-DG EMPL G.1 'European Social Fund +', REGIO-EMPL Joint Audit Directorate for Cohesion and TN members.</i>
19.30 AZOST	<p>TN dinner</p>

Day 2 – Thursday, 6th July 2023

09.00 – 09.30
AZOST

Registrations and welcome coffee

Session 3 – Simplification and next steps for the TN

9.30 – 10.00 AZOST	<p>3.1 Risk-based management verifications</p> <p>Presenting the work carried out by the TN working group on risk-based management verifications, including the final recommendation paper prepared by the group and the draft maps of practices prepared by TN members, and discussing the next steps for the TN around the topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Members of the TN working group on risk-based management verifications and EC representatives</i>
10.00 – 10.30 AZOST	<p>3.2 Digitalisation and simplification of processes in EU Funds management</p> <p>Presenting the study carried out by Portugal to simplify and review the European funds management organisational models</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Presentation by Portugal.</i>
10.30 – 11.00 AZOST	<p>3.3 Coordinating simplification at national Level</p> <p>Presenting a first set of good practices in coordinating simplification in EU Funds at national level. Good practices involve the setting up and functioning of national networks on simplification, support centres / working groups on simplification measures and other actions to enhance knowledge and develop harmonised approaches at national level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Luca Santin and TN members.</i>

11.00 – 11.20 AZOST	Coffee break
11.20 – 11.35 AZOST	3.4 Introduction to group discussions on next steps for the TN Based on the outcomes of discussions carried out at the 20 th meeting and of the multi-country workshop held in conjunction with the 21 st meeting, this session serves to present proposals for TN activities and events and introducing group discussions on the next steps. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Luca Santin, Coordinator, 'ESF Transnational Network on Simplification'</i>
11.35 – 12.10 AZOST	3.5 Group discussions on the TN's work programme Participants discuss in groups around the implementation of the TN work programme for 2023-2024, including topics, actions, events and proposals for sub-groups to be established under the TN. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Group discussions</i>
12.10 – 12.50 AZOST	3.6 Panel discussion on the TN's work programme Key outcomes of group discussions carried out in session 3.5 are addressed in a panel discussion with representatives of the European Commission. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Panel discussion with representatives of EC-DG EMPL G.1 'European Social Fund +', of REGIO-EMPL Joint Audit Directorate for Cohesion and TN members.</i>
12.50 – 13.00 AZOST	Next steps and concluding remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning the next meetings and activities (work plan) ▪ Concluding remarks
13.00 – 14.00 AZOST	Lunch