



DG REGIO Transnational Network on Simplification

16th meeting of DG REGIO Transnational Network (TN) on Simplification

14 - 15 March 2024 – Riga

Riga Circus, Merkēļa Street 4, Riga, LV-1050

[\(Link to Google Maps\)](#)

Agenda

Day 1: Thursday, 14 th March	
9:00 – 9:30 EET ¹	Registrations and welcome coffee
9:30 – 9:50 EET	Welcome by the host Member State <i>Arvils Ašeradens (The Minister for Finance of the Republic of Latvia)</i> <i>Nata Lasmane (The Head of Audit Authority (EU Funds Audit department))</i> <i>Edgars Šadris (The Head of EU Funds Strategy Department)</i>
9:50 – 10:00 EET	Introduction to the meeting Introducing the agenda of the meeting: objectives and activities. <i>Charlie Grant (Head of Unit, EC-DG REGIO F.1 'Better implementation and closure')</i> <i>Luca Santin (Coordinator of the TN)</i>
10:00 – 10:30 EET	Updates and questions on Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) and Financing Not Linked to Costs (FNLC) Presenting the state of play of SCOs and FNLC and the replies to frequently asked questions around the two simplification measures. <i>Presentation by EC representatives and Q&A session</i>
SESSION I – Digitalisation and artificial intelligence	
10:30 – 11:15 EET	I.1 – Digitalisation and artificial intelligence in practice Presenting interesting practices on digitalisation and use of artificial intelligence for the management and control of programmes funded by the EU. <i>Presentations by TN members</i> <i>Short group discussions to identify key questions on digitalisation and artificial intelligence</i>
11:15 – 11:35 EET	Coffee break

¹ Eastern European Time

<p>11:35 – 12:05 EET</p>	<p>I.2 – Panel discussion on digitalisation and artificial intelligence</p> <p>The key questions identified during the short group discussions are addressed in plenary, 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 and TN members</i></p>
<p>SESSION II – Guidance on SCOs and way forward on FNLC</p>	
<p>12:05 – 12:45 EET</p>	<p>II.1 – Introduction on updated guidance on SCOs and way forward on FNLC</p> <p>Presenting the outcomes of the multi-country workshop held in conjunction with the TN meeting and preliminary proposals for the updating the guidance on SCOs and defining a way forward on FNLC.</p> <p><i>Presentations by TN members</i></p>
<p>12:45 – 14:00 EET</p>	<p>Lunch break</p>
<p>14:00 – 15:20 EET</p>	<p>II.2 – Updated guidance on SCOs and way forward on FNLC – part 1</p> <p>Participants are invited to address, in a world café session, a first set of key topics relevant for updating the EC guidance on SCOs and defining a way forward on FNLC.</p> <p><i>World café</i></p>
<p>15:20 – 15:40 EET</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>
<p>15:40 – 17:00 EET</p>	<p>II.3 – Updated guidance on SCOs and way forward on FNLC – part 2</p> <p>Participants address a second set of key topics relevant for updating the EC guidance on SCOs and defining a way forward on FNLC.</p> <p><i>World café</i></p>
<p>19:30 EET</p>	<p>TN dinner</p>

Day 2: Friday, 15th March

8:45 – 9:15 EET	Registrations and welcome coffee
9:15 – 10:25 EET	II.4 – Next steps for guidance on SCOs and way forward on FNLC The outcomes of the world café session are reported back and discussed in plenary. The rationale of this session is to validate the main proposals identified by TN members for the update of the guidance on SCOs and the way forward on FNLC. <i>Reporting back and discussion in plenary</i>
SESSION III – Performance-based approaches and FNLC	
10:25 – 10:30 EET	III.1 - Introduction to performance-based approaches and FNLC This session serves to introduce the discussion on performance-based approaches and FNLC. <i>Presentation by EC representatives</i>
10:30 – 11:20 EET	III.2 – Developing FNLC schemes in practice: group exercise TN members are invited to develop draft FNLC schemes, based on feasibility studies covering policy areas relevant for ERDF/CF/JTF programmes. <i>Group exercise</i>
11:20 – 11:50 EET	Coffee break
11:50 – 12:45 EET	III.3 – Developing FNLC schemes in practice: panel discussion Presenting the draft FNLC schemes developed during the group exercise and addressing the key issues identified by participants around the practical development of FNLC proposals. <i>Panel discussion with representatives of EC-DG REGIO F.1 'Better implementation and closure', REGIO-EMPL Joint Audit Directorate for Cohesion and TN members</i>
SESSION IV – Next steps	
12:45 – 12:55 EET	IV.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

