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Learning Network on Transnational Cooperation in ESF

Common Framework post 2013 – Learning Network Proposals



With support from the European Union - European Social Fund and state budget of the Czech Republic
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Common Framework

- Based on **Article 10** of draft **ESF Regulation**
- Developed **by Members States in cooperation with EC**
- Modalities proposed for Common Framework **to be endorsed by the ESF**

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Common Framework

1. **Common themes**
2. **EU-level platform**
 - Bodies
 - Tools
3. **Coordinated calls**

MS participation **optional**, but need for clarity on modalities and engagement

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Common Themes

Based on feedback from MS and EC, TNC Network proposes following themes:

1. Active labour market policy
2. Inclusion
3. Youth employment
4. Learning and skills
5. Adaptability
6. Social economy
7. Governance and public administration

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EU-level platform - Bodies

- **European Commission:** responsible for TNC overall
- **EC Technical Assistance (EC TA):** supports EC, Thematic Networks, TNC Steering Group, Member States, funded from EC's TA budget
- **Thematic Networks:** provide policy input incl. design for coordinated calls, funded under EC TA
- **TNC Steering Group:** oversight of and advice on TNC (particularly horizontal issues), chaired by EC, EC TA to be secretariat, funded under EC TA
- **Member States:** ensure national/regional level duties (e.g. launch individual calls, select projects), actively attend Thematic Networks and TNC Steering Group

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EC Technical Assistance

- Leading of Thematic Networks on behalf of EC, convene meetings, **draft minutes, reports, animation, preparation of background papers, arrange for travel and accommodation** of Thematic Networks and Steering Group members
- **Preparation and running** of the partner search database and TNC website
- Monitoring of MS launching synchronised calls, reporting to EC and Steering Group, advice MS if needed, **preparation of partner search fora** (pre-matches projects, prepares agenda, facilitates the events, organises logistics, registration, premises)
- **Dissemination and mainstreaming of projects results** (organisation of events, round tables, inviting thematic experts, spreading info outside ESF circle, research)
- **Organisation** of TNs meetings (mutual learning in a given theme)
- **Simple technical monitoring** based on data from MS, **limited evaluation** of selected TNC partnerships

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Thematic Networks I.

- To be established **for each common theme** and cover the full implementation period of the Common Framework
- Led, convened and chaired by the EC TA (on behalf of the EC), which will also provide the secretariat function; **strategic oversight and decision making will be ensured by participating MSs**
- Membership compulsory if an MS/MA wishes to participate in the Common Framework for a given theme (1 representative from MA, 1 expert)
- Membership open to MSs/MAs not participating in the Common Framework for a given theme with no voting rights on issues related to the Common Framework for the theme
- Key role in the **organisation of coordinated calls**, develop content related parameters for coordinated calls, focusing the relevant common theme according to members' mutual interests and **providing expertise in fields relevant to the theme concerned**

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Thematic Networks II.

- Ensure proper **involvement of relevant stakeholders**, representatives of relevant social partners and civil society shall be invited, including European level bodies covering particular sectors
- Ensure **links to relevant national networks** in participating MSs (where they exist)
- Define and communicate to the EC TA what information is required from the latter's monitoring/evaluation activities and duly consider and follow up information received
- **Contribute** to the EC TA's **dissemination and mainstreaming activities**, including input for the central website and inclusion of project results in policy

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TNC Steering Group I.

- To cover the full implementation period of the Common Framework
- Led, convened and **chaired by the EC**, with EC TA supplying the secretariat function, MS and the EC together agree on the agenda and if needed on background papers that will be then prepared by the EC TA
- Membership compulsory for **all MSs involved in the Common Framework**
- Membership open to MSs not participating in the Common Framework; these MSs with no voting rights on issues related to the Common Framework
- To be the **forum** in which interested **MSs/MAs** come together to discuss TNC issues in general (including anything connected with the flexible approach) and the Common Framework in particular

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TNC Steering Group II.

- Steers the Common Framework, **develop the timetable and common parameters** for coordinated calls, approving proposals for the partner search database and central website, and **verifying that the services** provided by the EU-level Platform **are adequately serving the purposes for which they were designed**
- Provides **advice to the EC, EC TA and Thematic Networks** on coordinated calls, particularly on issues of a horizontal nature (e.g. partner search, eligible expenditure)
- **Coordination** with relevant national and EU level programmes and previous initiatives (e.g. the present Learning Networks)

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EU-level platform - Tools

Partner search database

- Primary focus on project ideas or proposals
- Should be open for flexible approach

Central EU-level website

- To follow on from current TNC website
- Analogous website for European Territorial Cooperation to be inspiration
- To cater for flexible approach as well as Common framework

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Coordinated Calls

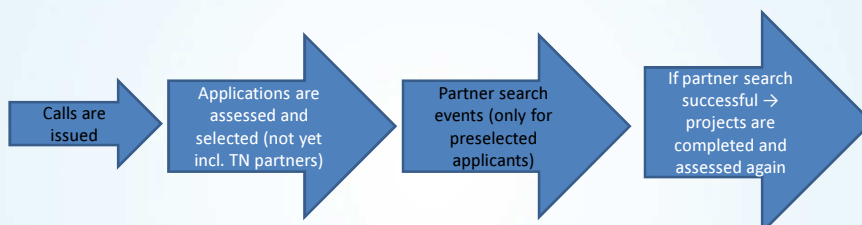
- **Two cycles of calls** launched over the programming period to cover all common themes, MSs participate only in themes of their interest
- **Parameters of calls** developed by Member States (via Thematic Networks and TNC Steering Group)
- Individual **national/regional calls** developed/launched **on the basis of agreed parameters**

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Suggested method of project selection

Majority of MS prefer two steps selection process:



Other options are also possible provided that certain conditions are met with regard to the number of projects put forward for the partner search fora (and the related section of the partner search database)



Monitoring, dissemination, evaluation

- **Monitoring** of individual contracts rest with national/regional MAs; EC TA responsible for simple technical monitoring on EU level based on data from MSs.
- **Dissemination/mainstreaming** of project results should rest with TNC partners (supported by MSs); EC TA (Thematic Networks) shall support dissemination/mainstreaming of TNC partnership results at EU level.
- **Impact Evaluation** of TNC partnership on EU level will be ensured by EC to capture especially the added value of TNC projects.



General Timetable

- **1Q 2014: Common themes and implementing modalities** endorsed by the ESF Committee
- **1Q 2014:** ESF launching conference
- **2Q 2014:** EC invites MSs to participate in the Common Framework and nominate representatives to EU-level platform bodies
- **3Q 2014:** EC Technical Assistance contracted and operational, Thematic Networks established, TNC Steering Group established
- **4Q 2014:** EU-wide partner search database and central EU-level TNC website operational
- **3Q-4Q 2014:** Development of timetable and parameters for first coordinated call
- **1Q-2Q 2015:** Development of individual national/regional calls under the first coordinated call
- **2Q-3Q 2015:** Launch of individual national/regional calls under the first coordinated call

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Next steps in 2014 – activities of the TNC Network

- **Draft Terms of Reference** for Thematic Networks and TNC Steering Group
- **Draft horizontal parameters** for 1st coordinated call
- **Draft specifications** for the **EU-wide partner search database**
- **Draft specifications** for the **EU-level website**
- **Draft** of some kind of implementing manual for the Common framework (summary of suggested good practice)
- **Draft example format** for standard **transnational cooperation agreement**

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Thank you for your attention!