

Implementing the European Structural and Investment Funds Regulations, 2014-2020

Maastricht (NL), 6-7 June 2017



European Institute of Public Administration
Institut européen d'administration publique



Erasmus+

www.eipa.eu

What is this course about?

This 2-day seminar will be dedicated to looking at the ESIF regulations for the 2014-2020 period. It will highlight the most challenging issues for implementation of the new operational programmes.

It will include detailed sessions showing how programmes have changed in line with the rules – such as the implications of the new result-orientation emphasis for programmes and projects. We will address one of the main concerns of the European Commission – that project selection is optimal and that measurable results and impacts are achieved. We will examine the new evaluation, monitoring and reporting requirements, including the performance framework and the setting of targets.

There will be an assessment of the key challenges for programme implementation and management from the point of view of a Member State Managing Authority – new priorities and the results focus, concentration of activities, respecting horizontal rules, using new instruments, the selection of operations, simplification, financial planning and n+3, financial management and control. We use case studies to illustrate the use of new instruments and tools.

We will highlight changes to financial management and control rules, working with simplified cost options, eligible expenditure rules, public procurement procedures and grant calculations for revenue-generating projects. We conclude by anticipating new developments and the course of the new OMNIBUS regulation.

How will it help you?

By the end of the seminar, participants should have a clear understanding of the rules for the new programming period and how the challenges for implementation are being addressed. This includes reference to detailed management procedures and best practices for implementation, as well as the use of tools to measure the effects of interventions.

The seminar will consist of a series of illustrated presentations given by senior regional practitioners, and expert consultants. Ample time will be available for question and answer sessions, discussions and exchanges of experience. There will be practical workshops and exercises on automatic decommitment, public procurement rules, using financial instruments, measuring results and gathering data, setting budgets and targets for the Performance Framework, spending profiles and n+3, eligible expenditures and options for using flat-rates and standardised unit costs.

Who will benefit most?

The seminar is aimed at all economic actors in the Structural Funds /Cohesion Fund policy-making and implementation process, including Managing, Certifying, Audit authorities, Intermediate Bodies, and national, regional and local officials or representatives. It is also designed for other implementing bodies, including agencies with an economic development role (such as regional development agencies), educational and training establishments, and other local partners, including consultants and NGOs.

Programme

TUESDAY 6 JUNE 2017

- 08.45 **Registration of participants**
- 09.00 **Opening of the seminar**
Marco Lopriore, Expert, EIPA
- 09.15 **Comparing the new Structural and Investment Funds regulations 2014-2020 with 2007-2013: key implementation issues, part 1**
- programme intervention logic, result-orientation
 - concentration, conditionality, new methods, measuring progress and success – quantifying programmes and the performance framework
 - programme finance, financial flows – commitments, advances, payments
 - the new accounting year, assurance on accounts, information
- Robin Smail, Consultant (UK) & Visiting Expert EIPA (former National Expert EC)*
- 10.45 Coffee break
- 11.15 **Comparing the new Structural and Investment Funds regulations 2014-2020 with 2007-2013: key implementation issues, part 1 (contd.)**
- changes to revenue-generating projects
 - exercise with revenue generating projects
- Robin Smail*
- 11.45 **New ESF priorities and mechanisms**
- ESF in 2014-2020
 - increasing effectiveness
 - simplified costs options
 - exercises with unit costs
- Marco Lopriore*
- 13.15 Lunch
- 14.45 **New and Ongoing Management Challenges for Member States – Part I**
- new programme challenges on the ground: Europe 2020 priorities, concentration, result-based objectives, the performance framework
 - exercise with specific objectives and results
 - financial and management challenges: integration of funds, new methods, communications, reducing the administration burden, e-cohesion
 - management of automatic decommitment
 - exercise: spending profiles and n+3 in 2014-2020
- Shaun Henry, Director, Managing Authority, Special EU Programmes Body, Northern Ireland (UK) and former Twinning Adviser, Romania*
- 16.15 Coffee break
- 16.45 **Measuring performance and success: evaluation and monitoring requirements for new Operational Programmes**
- new requirements for monitoring, reporting and evaluation
 - the Annual Implementation Report
 - indicators for investment priorities and the new performance framework

- exercise with budgets and targets for priorities
 - overview of the evaluation/monitoring cycle
 - the essentials of evaluations during the programming period
 - assessing impacts
- Robin Smail*

- 18.15 **End of day one**
18.30 Reception at Hotel Derlon

WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE 2017

- 09.15 **New and Ongoing Management Challenges for Member States – Part II**
- exercise: spending profiles and n+3 (contd).
 - horizontal principles: sustainable development, gender equality, non-discrimination
 - eligibility of expenditure: simplified cost options, durability, in-kind contributions, compliance, scope of Funds, European Territorial Cooperation
 - financial control challenges: retention of documents, national rules, errors and irregularities
- Shaun Henry*
- 10.45 Coffee break
- 11.15 **Workshop with Eligibility of Expenditure, Public Procurement and Financial Instruments**
Shaun Henry
- 12.15 **Comparing the new Structural and Investment Funds regulations 2014-2020 with 2007-2013: key implementation issues, part 2**
- financial control and audit changes
 - designation and changes to roles of authorities
 - audit of systems and operations
- Robin Smail*
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.30 **Comparing the new Structural and Investment Funds regulations 2014-2020 with 2007-2013: key implementation issues, part 2 (contd.)**
- programme closure
- Robin Smail*
- 14.50 **Implementation Issues for Programmes and new regulations to be implemented**
- simplification; national rules; reducing administrative burden
 - sound economic governance
 - synergies with other EU Funds – Horizon 2020, framework programmes for research and development; working with the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI)
 - case studies: (new) funding instruments – global grants, vouchers, financial instruments, integrated territorial investments (ITI)
 - the new OMNIBUS regulation in the pipeline
- Marco Lopriore*
- 16.10 **Feedback, evaluation, conclusion of the seminar**
16.15 **Close of seminar**

General Information

Programme

The programme will commence on Tuesday at 08.45 and will finish on Wednesday at 16.15.

Seminar venue

European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA)
O.L. Vrouweplein 22
6211 HE, Maastricht
the Netherlands
tel.: +31 43 32 96 222
www.eipa.eu

Working language

The seminar will be conducted in English.

Fee

EIPA members' fee*: €900
Regular fee: €1000

The fee includes documentation, two lunches, one reception and refreshments. Accommodation and travel costs are at the expense of the participants or their administration. Note that reductions cannot be accumulated. For more information: <http://seminars.eipa.eu> (Training courses - Discount policy)

* EIPA members can take advantage of a reduced fee; this is available to all civil servants working for one of EIPA's member countries (i.e. AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DK, FI, FR, DE, GR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, ES, SE, UK), and civil servants working for an EU institution, body or agency.

Hotel reservations

The European Institute of Public Administration has special price arrangements with a number of hotels. All hotels are within 10 minutes walking distance from EIPA.

Should you wish to make use of this possibility, please book directly via the links below. Payment is to be made directly and personally to the hotel on checking out. At the time of booking, please mention in the requested field the EIPA project number **1730203**.

- **Townhouse Hotel**
www.townhousehotels.nl/eipa
- **Hotel Derlon**
www.derlon.com/eipa
- **Designhotel Maastricht – Hampshire Eden**
www.hampshire-hotels.com/eipa
- **Bastion Hotel**
www.bastionhotels.nl/en/eipa.html

Meals

Lunches and the dinner will be served at a restaurant in town. Should you require a special menu (e.g. vegetarian, diabetic), please inform the Programme Organiser so that this can be arranged.

Registration

Kindly complete the online registration form which can be found on EIPA's website <http://seminars.eipa.eu> before **22 May 2017**.

Your name and address will be part of EIPA's database for our mailing purpose only. If you do not want to be included in our mailing database, please tick the box on the registration form.

Confirmation

Confirmation of registration will be forwarded to participants on receipt of the completed registration form.

Payment

Prior payment is a condition for participation. Please indicate the method of payment on the registration form. For cancellations received within 15 days before the activity begins, we will have to charge an administration fee of €150 unless a replacement participant is found.

Cancellation policy

EIPA reserves the right to cancel the seminar up to two weeks before the starting date. EIPA accepts no responsibility for any costs incurred (travel, hotel, etc.). For more information: <http://seminars.eipa.eu> (Training courses - Cancellation policy).

Programme Organiser

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