

Financial Management of EU Structural and Investment Funds

Maastricht (NL), 25-26 April 2017



European Institute of Public Administration
Institut européen d'administration publique



Erasmus+

www.eipa.eu

What is this course about?

The seminar will cover all the essentials of Financial Planning and Management, Financial Control and Audit for Operational Programmes in the 2014-2020 period.

The first part of the seminar is dedicated to programme finance and the new accounting year, looking at what goes into the annual accounts and the calculation of the annual balance (an exercise on the annual balance will follow in day 2). It also considers the process of interim payments in detail. This is followed by an in-depth examination of the new eligibility of expenditure rules and an analysis of the particular financial management challenges facing Managing Authorities, seen from a Member State point of view. This includes a review of good practice for financial planning and addressing n+3, as well as encouraging the use of Simplified Cost Options. Day 1 is concluded with an examination of Financial Control and Audit, distinguishing between them, presented by a leading Member State practitioner.

Day 2 starts by continuing the theme of audit, looking in detail at the audit of systems and the audit of operations, again from a Member State perspective, plus an examination of irregularities, corrections, and calculation of the error rate. There will then be a keynote presentation from the European Commission, who will look at one of the most problematic financial control areas for Managing Authorities, Implementation Bodies and some projects – compliance with the public procurement rules. The seminar will close by examining the new performance-related aspect of programmes – the PF and the link between finance and achievements within priorities. European Union guidance documents will be referenced throughout the seminar. We hope to share experiences from Member State authorities. The seminar will compare the new rules for 2014-2020 with the situation for the 2007-2013 period.

How will it help you?

The objectives of this seminar are two-fold:

- to bring together practitioners and experts from the European, national and sub-national level, to enable them to share experiences and identify cases of good practice in financial management;
- to discuss ways of implementing financial management, control and audit rules, such as eligibility of expenditure, financial controls, audit practices.

Who will benefit most?

This seminar is intended for practitioners from national and sub-national authorities and from other public bodies of the EU Member States (and associated countries) working with ESI Funds. The seminar is also open to economic and social partners working with the Structural and Investment Funds, such as universities, NGOs, employers' associations, consultants.

Programme

TUESDAY 25 APRIL 2017

- 08.45 **Registration**
- 09.00 **Opening and introduction to the objectives and methodology of the seminar**
- 09.15 **Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020: the past and present regulations and the implications for the financial management of the Funds**
- Legislation and simplification in cohesion policy
 - ECA reporting
 - Guidance documentation
- Martin Unfried*, Expert, European Institute of Public Administration, Maastricht (NL)
- 09.45 **Programme Finance, Financial Management and Control**
- the new financial framework and programme finance, 2014-2020
 - financial flows – commitments, pre-financing, interim payment claims
- Robin Smail*, Consultant (UK) and Visiting Expert EIPA, (former Seconded National Expert, EC)
- 10.45 Coffee break
- 11.15 **Programme Finance, Financial Management and Control (contd.)**
- the new accounting year and calculating the annual balance
 - timetables for reporting, payments and closure
- Robin Smail*
- 11.45 **Financial Management Issues and eligibility of projects and expenditures**
- concentration, simplification, planning expenditure
 - legal provisions, the Funds, timing of expenditure
 - in-kind contributions, durability of operations, technical assistance
 - revenue generating projects, financial engineering, cross financing
- Shaun Henry*, Director, Managing Authority, Special EU Programmes Body, Northern Ireland (UK) and former Twinning Adviser, Romania
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.30 **Workshop on eligibility of projects and expenditures**
- in-kind contributions and co-financing
 - financial engineering
 - ERDF and ESF cases
- Shaun Henry*
- 16.15 Coffee break
- 16.45 **Audit and Control of Structural Funds for 2014-2020**
- architecture of management and control systems
 - the roles of the key authorities under the new rules
 - new accounting/auditing year
 - designation of authorities
 - management verifications
- Dermot Byrne*, ERDF Audit Authority, Department of Public Expenditure Reform, Dublin (IE)
- 18.15 **End of the first day**
- 18.30 Reception at Hotel Derlon
- ## WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL 2017
- 09.15 **Audit of systems, operations and accounts**
- audits of systems
 - sampling and audit of operations
 - audit of accounts
 - irregularities / system deficiencies and corrections
- Dermot Byrne*
- 10.45 Coffee break
- 11.15 **Public Procurement for the Structural and Cohesion Funds**
- the public procurement Directives
 - contracts covered and not covered by the Directives
 - preventive actions
- Rafael Lopez Sanchez*, Deputy Head of Unit, Audit Directorate of DG Regional Policy, European Commission, Brussels (BE)
- 12.30 **Question & Answer session**
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.30 **Programme Finance, Financial Management and Control (contd.) - exercise**
- the annual accounting year and calculating the annual balance
- Robin Smail*
- 15.00 **Performance frameworks: linking programme finance to programme progress and success**
- the result-orientation of programmes
 - measuring performance: output and result indicators
 - monitoring and reporting performance
 - exercise with Performance Framework
- Robin Smail*
- 16.15 **Evaluation and conclusion of the seminar**
- 16.30 **End of the seminar**

General Information

Programme

The programme will commence on Tuesday at 08.45 and will finish on Wednesday at 16.30.

Course venue

European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA)
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6211 HE, Maastricht
the Netherlands
tel.: +31 43 32 96 222
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Working language

The course 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 **1730206**.

- **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 reception 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 **19 April 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).

European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA)



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