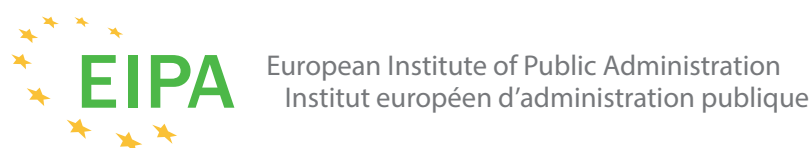


Financial Management and Control of EU Structural and Investment Funds, 2014-2020

Maastricht (NL), 20-21 September 2017



Accredited by
*Koninklijke Nederlandse
Beroepsorganisatie van
Accountants (NBA)*

www.eipa.eu

What is this course about?

Only 3% of the total Structural and Cohesion Fund budgets for the 2014-2020 Operational Programmes has been spent by early 2017. Planned expenditure for projects which have been approved is just one-quarter of the total budget available. So what are the major issues and problems holding back programme implementation? What are the risks of automatic de-commitment of Funds and how to address this? Are Management Verifications efficient? Can we simplify the financial management and control of programmes and projects?

These issues and many others will be examined at the forthcoming EIPA seminar. The seminar will cover all the essentials of Financial Management, Financial Control and Audit for Operational Programmes in the 2014-2020 period.

The first part of the seminar is dedicated to programme planning and finance, as well as the new accounting year. It also considers the process of interim payments and automatic de-commitment in detail. We look at what goes into the annual accounts, the calculation of the annual balance, and the link to n+3. This is followed by an in-depth examination of the current challenges facing Managing Authorities – particularly management verifications and the new eligibility of expenditure rules - seen from a Member State point of view. Day 1 is concluded with an examination of key issues within Financial Control and Audit, presented by a leading Member State practitioner. Day 2 starts by looking in detail at the audit of accounts, systems and operations, again from a Member State perspective, plus an examination of irregularities, corrections, and calculation of the error rate. The seminar then looks in a highly practical way at the special link between finance and performance, using the Performance Framework. The rest of the seminar is then dedicated to simplifying programmes: how to use all types of Simplified Costs Options and what is in the pipeline with the new proposed OMNIBUS regulation.

How will it help you?

Participants will work with live issues and practical solutions for challenges in the fields of financial management, financial control and audit. They will enjoy quality speakers from Member States' authorities, as well as regional experts and consultants. The seminar will include numerous workshops and exercise sessions where examples and case studies will be presented. Participants will be encouraged to exchange practical examples, experiences and good practice in managing EU Structural Funds.

Who will benefit most?

This seminar is intended for practitioners from national, regional and local authorities and from other public bodies of 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

WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2017

- 08.45 **Registration**
- 09.00 **Opening of the seminar and introduction to the objectives and methodology of the seminar**
- 09.15 **European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020 and Beyond: Evolution of the Regulations and the Implications for the Financial Management of the Funds**
- Programmes and ex-ante conditionalities
 - Cohesion Policy legislation and future developments
 - European Court of Auditors reporting
 - Simplification and the proposed OMNIBUS regulation
- Martin Unfried, Expert, European Institute of Public Administration, Maastricht (NL)*
- 09.45 **Programme Finance, Financial Management and Control**
- Programme finance and financial planning, 2014-2020
 - Financial flows – commitments, pre-financing, interim payment claims, n+3
 - The new accounting year and calculating the annual balance
- Robin Smail, Consultant (UK/IE) and Visiting Expert EIPA, (former Seconded National Expert, EC)*
- 10.45 Coffee break
- 11.15 **Programme Finance, Financial Management and Control (contd.)**
- Financial information, financial control
 - Timetables for reporting, payments and programme closure
- Robin Smail*
- 11.45 **Financial Management and Control Issues, Management Verifications and the Eligibility of Projects and Expenditures**
- Concentration, performance, simplification of administrative burden
 - How to avoid automatic de-commitment
 - Exercise: spending profiles and n+3 in 2014-2020
 - Efficient management and on-the-spot verifications
 - Impact of simplified cost options on management verifications
 - Eligibility of expenditure issues (timing, durability, in-kind, public procurement etc.)
- Maeve Hamilton, ERDF Managing Authority, Department for the Economy, Northern Ireland (UK)*
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.30 **Workshop on Eligibility of Projects and Expenditures**
- In-kind contributions and co-financing
 - ERDF and ESF cases
 - Simplified cost options
- Maeve Hamilton*

- 16.15 Coffee break
- 16.45 **Audit and Control of European Structural and Investment Funds, 2014-2020**
- Architecture of management and control systems
 - Assurance model and the new roles of the authorities
 - Key issues for the audit trail: management verifications, public procurement
 - Risk assessment approach for Financial Control
 - Anti-fraud measures, ARACHNE
- 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

THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2017

- 09.15 **Annual Assurance Process and Audit of Systems, Operations and Accounts**
- The new accounting/audit year and audit of accounts
 - Audits of systems and key requirements
 - Audit of operations, sampling and error rates
 - System deficiencies, payment interruptions/suspensions and corrections
- Dermot Byrne*
- 10.45 Coffee break
- 11.15 **Implementing Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) in 2014-2020**
- The new options of simplified cost options
 - Reducing irregularities
- Marco Lopriore, Expert, EIPA*
- 12.15 **Workshop: Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) in 2014 and Beyond**
- Exercises with SCO
- Marco Lopriore*
- 13.15 Lunch
- 14.30 **Programme Finance, Financial Management and Control (contd.) - Exercises**
- The annual accounting year and calculating the annual balance
 - Revenue-generating projects
- Robin Smail*
- 15.30 **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*
- 16.25 **Evaluation and conclusion of the seminar**
- 16.30 **End of the seminar**

General Information

Programme

The programme will commence on Wednesday 20 September 2017 at 09.00 and will finish on Thursday 21 September 2017 at 16.15. Registration of participants will be open at 8.45.

Course 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 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, 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 **1730209**.

- **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 **5 September 2017**.



If you are collecting the PE points for accountants please indicate this in the **Additional information** box at the bottom of your registration.

Programme Organiser

Ms Winny Curfs
Tel: +31 43 32 96 320
E-mail: w.curfs@eipa.eu

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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