

## Delivering Better Results and Making Greater Use of Simplification in ESI Funds

Brussels (BE), 9-10 November 2017



European Institute of Public Administration  
Institut européen d'administration publique

[www.eipa.eu](http://www.eipa.eu)



This 2-day seminar will be dedicated to looking at the key challenges of simplification, reduction of administrative burden and result-orientation of the Structural and Cohesion Funds Regulations for the 2014-2020 period (and therefore much of the regulations affecting EAFRD and EMFF).

We will consider the current SCO (Simplified Cost Options) of flat-rates, standard scales of unit costs and lumpsums, its advanced options such as art 14.1 of ESF as well as the possible use of Joint Action Plans, the methodologies to be applied, as well as the latest proposals of the OMNIBUS Regulation. Flat-rates, lump-sums and standard scales of unit costs will be examined in great details and applied through different exercises.

The experiences of some front-runner Member states will be illustrated. It will include the audit approach to be followed and the prevention and correction of irregularities in SCOs. A range of other implementation issues will be discussed, including national rules and 'gold-plating', achieving synergies with other EU funding sources, such as with the Seal of Excellence and the compatibility with states aid regulations, and using new tools like global grants and vouchers to speed up absorption. There will be a keynote intervention from the European Commission and a discussion with a member of the EU transnational network on simplification.

### How will it help you?

By the end of the seminar, participants should have a clear understanding of how to use Simplified Cost Options, how to improve implementation and absorption of the Structural Funds, and how to develop and support complex projects. This seminar will also provide a unique platform for exchanging views on the future of ESI funds.

### 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 project sponsors and applicants, as well as 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

## THURSDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2017

- 08.45 **Registration of participants**
- 09.00 **Opening and introduction to the objectives and methodology of the seminar**  
*Marco Lopriore, Expert, EIPA, Maastricht (NL)*
- 09.15 **Review of the simplified cost options the European Structural and Investment fund regulations 2014-2020**
- Review of key changes for simplification in ESI 2014-2020
  - The rationale behind SCOs and the options available
  - Optional or mandatory?
  - Calculation methods and irregularities with SCO
- 10.45 Coffee break
- 11.15 **Advanced options in SCO**
- How to work in Art 14.1 of ESF
  - Lessons learned of experiences of EU Member States (Sweden and France)
  - Key elements of Joint Action Plan (JAP) and SCO at EU level
  - Updates on the OMNIBUS Regulation
  - Audit approach to SCO
- Colin Byrne, European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion Unit E.1 ESF Policy and Legislation, Brussels (BE)*
- 12.45 Lunch
- 14.15 **Exercises on SCOs**
- Using the different flat-rates
  - SCO, generation of revenues and GBER compatibility
  - Using the 1720 hours and the pro-rata rule
  - SCO and cross-financing
- Marco Lopriore*
- 15.45 Coffee break
- 16.00 **Case study United Kingdom**
- 'co-financing' model in the UK
  - Working with public tendering
  - UK funding formula
  - Large employer factor and the uplifts (disadvantage, area cost)
- Ken Lambert, Adviser, former Head of ESF England, former member of the EU Structural Reform Support Service, European Commission (UK)*
- 17.30 **Exercise on Payment by results**  
*Ken Lambert and Marco Lopriore*
- 18.00 **End of the first day**
- 19.30 Dinner in restaurant La Caneva  
Rue des Grands Carmes 9, 1000 Bruxelles

## FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2017

- 09.00 **Review of EU best practices on ESI Simplification**
- Experiences of simplification from EU Member states
  - Lessons learned 2007-2013 on using SCOs
  - Risks and experiences and considerations for MA/IB
  - Recommendations from the transnational group
- Luca Santin, ESF thematic expert, Transnational platform on simplification*
- 10.30 Coffee break
- 11.00 **Workshop on ESI Simplification**  
*Luca Santin*
- 12.00 **Exercise on result –oriented unit costs**  
*Marco Lopriore*
- 12.30 Lunch
- 14.00 **Remaining elements of simplification in ESI**
- Synergies between ESI and other EU funds: the Seal of Excellence initiative
  - E-Cohesion and harmonised ESI eligibility rules
  - Using Global Grants and vouchers
  - Exercise on synergies and compatibility with state aid rules
- Marco Lopriore*
- 15.30 **Feedback and evaluation of the seminar**
- 15.45 **End of the seminar**

# General Information

## Programme

The programme will commence on Thursday at 08.45 and will finish on Friday at 15.45.

## Course venue

Regione Campania  
8th floor  
Avenue De Cortenbergh, 60  
1000 Brussels

## Working language

The course will be conducted in English.

## Fee

EIPA members' fee\*: €995  
Regular fee: €1100

The fee includes documentation, two lunches, one dinner 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.

## 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 **23 October 2017**.

## Programme Organiser

Ms Nancy Vermeulen  
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Location: Headquarters Maastricht

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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