Seminar

Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) of EU-Financed Projects: Advanced Course

Barcelona (ES), 25 - 26 October 2018

Experts

Michele Alessandrini (IT)
Senior expert at t33, a European public policy consultancy that supports public administrations to develop, assess, and review policies and programmes. He has been providing technical assistance and guidance in CBA of infrastructure projects financed by the Structural Funds in the programming period 2007-2013. In particular, he has been contributing to the financial, economic and risk analysis of transport and urban rehabilitation projects. Additionally, Michele is an expert in various studies conducted for the EIB, the Committee of the Regions, European Commission and other EU Institutions.
He holds a PhD in International Economics from the University of Rome, Tor Vergata and he published several articles in international refereed journals.

Dr Iwona Karwot (PL)
Dr Iwona Karwot (PL) is a Senior Lecturer at EIPA Barcelona, specialising in structural and Cohesion Funds programming, implementation and audit. She developed and runs seminars on CBA and Audit in close cooperation with European Court of Auditors and EU Commission.
Before joining EIPA in 2008, she gained extensive practical knowledge in her field. Since 1999, she has been involved in the preparation process for Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund in Poland at central and regional level, as well as in its implementation in the post-accession period as a manager and trainer within the framework of five institutional building projects (Special Preparatory Programme – Phare SPP I and II, three regional twinnings). She has also worked in Poland and abroad as a national expert in implementation. In GFA Consulting Group GmbH in Hamburg (DE). In GFA she planned and lead short-term missions and workshops for the Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia departments on regional development and strategic planning (Moldova, Serbia, Croatia, etc.).

Krzysztof Kasprzyk (PL) tbc
Policy Officer, Unit B3 - Financial Instruments and International Financial Institutions Relations, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission.
Before joining the Commission in September 2016, he was the member of the Polish delegation at the Structural Actions Working Party in the Council of the European Union, COESIF and EGESIF; he actively participated in all the negotiations of provisions of 2014-2020 and 2007-2013 regulations and the European Commission’s guidelines concerning major projects and projects generating net revenues.
In Poland he was for many years head of the Programming Unit in Managing Authority for Operational Programme “Infrastructure and Environment” in the Polish Ministry for Regional Development and the key expert in assessment of CBA for FISPA and Cohesion Fund projects, and in the preparation of Polish guidelines in this field, in cooperation with JASPERS. Within the Managing Authority of the biggest ever Operational Programme in the European Union, he was responsible for ensuring proper application of EU rules concerning CBA and net revenue-generating projects in 6 sectors.

Davide Sartori (IT)
CBA specialist, European Investment Bank, JASPERS – Networking and Competence Centre. He is an expert in appraisal of development projects and in financial, economic and risk analysis of infrastructure investments.
As former senior Economist at CSIL, he is the lead author of the 2014 European Commission Guide to Cost Benefit Analysis of Investment Projects. In the last years, he was appointed by several International Financing Institutions (European Commission, World Bank, European Investment Bank and African Development Bank) to appraise and/or evaluate their projects. He has also been carrying out trainings on cost-benefit analysis targeting officials of the EU, national and regional institutions (in Italy, Romania, Lithuania, FYROM, etc.), as well as graduate students.
This course is a follow-up to the ‘CBA Why and How’ course and it explains in a very detailed and practical way how to successfully perform each element of a CBA, including the financial, economic, sensitivity and risk analysis of projects eligible under EU Funds in different sectors. It lays special emphasis on typical benefits and the techniques most frequently to evaluate them in the programming period of 2014-2020.

During the course you will take part in workshops that will allow you to practice how to review the quality of CBAs, how to report their results, how to adjust the project to improve the quality of the CBA and make it desirable for the EU co-financing.

How will it help you?
You will improve your practical knowledge on how to perform financial, economic, sensitivity and risk analysis of projects. You will also learn how to efficiently review the quality of CBAs in different sectors and how to report their results. To exercise the knowledge you gain, you will work in a small workgroup on a case study of your interest, with direct involvement of CBA experts from EU Commission and JASPERS.

Who will benefit most?
- Participants of previous CBA courses wishing to broaden and improve their practical knowledge on CBA.
- Practitioners responsible for the preparation of the CBA or review of its quality and reporting its result
- Auditors.

What will you be able to do with what you learn?
You will improve your knowledge about how to review the quality of CBAs, how to report their results and how to adjust the project to improve the quality of the CBA and make it desirable for EU co-financing.

Description

Programme

THURSDAY 25 OCTOBER 2018

08.45 Registration and handing out of seminar material
09.00 Opening of the seminar: introduction to the programme, objectives and methodology

Part I – Financial, economic, sensitivity and risk analysis of EU co-financed projects

09.30 Specific issues related to preparation and use of CBA in 2014 – 2020 and possible changes in post 2020 period and its consequences: modelling of demand, interaction with state aid rules, implications for programme closure and other issues raised by participants

11.00 Coffee break

11.30 Specific issues related to preparation and use of CBA in 2014 – 2020 and possible changes in post 2020 period and its consequences – continuation

12.00 Q&A session

12.15 How to prepare an effective financial analysis for EU co-financed projects?
Detailed description of preparation process for financial analysis, project identification, choice of the counterfactual scenario, technical feasibility and option analysis, total investment cost, time horizon and residual value, operating costs and revenues, treatment of inflation, financial sustainability and performance indicators.

13.45 Q&A session

14.00 Joint lunch in the restaurant

15.30 Economic, sensitivity and risk analysis of EU co-financed projects
From market to shadow prices, non-market effects, economic rate of return, tables for the economic analysis, fiscal effects, social discount rate, shadow wage, monetisation of environmental externalities. Forecasting uncertainties of the project, sensitivity test, scenario analysis and risk probability analysis.

17.30 Final panel of experts: evaluation of workshop results, including debates on problems faced by the participants during the exercises and possible solutions

18.00 Closure of seminar and issuing of EIPA certificates to participants

FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER 2018

09.15 Introduction to the second day of the seminar and to the workshops

Part II – Practical workshop: review of the quality of the CBAs and reporting of its results.

09.30 Practical workshop
Each working group will review a different case study/ project from different sectors in order to find key features of the project, deficiencies and pitfalls, solutions for how to adjust the project to improve the quality of the CBA and make it desirable for the EU co-financing.

11.15 Coffee break

11.45 Practical workshop – continuation

14.00 Joint lunch in the restaurant

15.30 Presentation of workshop results by each group, followed by discussion with experts and questions from other groups

17.45 Division of participants into small parallel working groups and distribution of case studies from different sectors: railway, motorway, solid waste, waste water, urban regeneration and productive investment.

18.00 End of the first day