

# ESTIF Interactive Forum

## Management, Control & Audit of ESI Funds

11-12 May 2017 | Zagreb



### Day 1: Interactive Sessions

In six interactive sessions crucial topics on the management, control and audit of ESI Funds will be discussed in various case studies, practical exercises and discussion rounds – use the great opportunity to exchange on best practice with your colleagues from all over Europe.

**NEW MEETING FORMAT!**



**Balázs Dencsö**  
Directorate General for Audit of European Funds, Budapest, on  
**I: New Reporting & Audit Requirements**



**Louis Vervloet**  
ESF Agency Flanders, Brussels, on  
**II: Simplified Cost Options**



**Simon Hannah**  
DCLG, Cambridge, on  
**III: Management Verifications**



**Jo Kremers**  
Ministry of Finance, The Hague, on  
**IV: Fraud & Corruption**



**Kurt Bungartz**  
European Court of Auditors, Luxembourg, on  
**V: Performance Audit**



**Csaba Harsanyi**  
MFB Hungarian Development Bank Plc., Brussels, on  
**VI: EFSI & Financial Instruments**

### Day 2: Workshops

The full-day workshops allow an in-depth examination of the topics. Renowned experts will guide you through the day and will apply the lessons learnt with you in practical case studies and discussion rounds.

#### I: ESI Funds in Compliance with State Aid Rules



**Phedon Nicolaides**  
College of Europe and Maastricht University

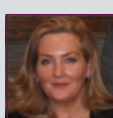


**Katrien de Marez**  
DG Competition,  
European Commission, Brussels

#### II: Handling Errors, Irregularities and Financial Corrections in ESI Programmes



**Christopher Bovis**  
University of Hull



**Gina McIntyre**  
Special EU Programmes Body,  
Belfast



**Martina Gutvald**  
Ministry of Finance, Zagreb



## Parallel Workshops

### ESI Funds in Compliance with State Aid Rules

- 9:00 **Welcome and Introduction of Participants**  
**Phedon Nicolaides**  
*Professor at the College of Europe and at the Maastricht University; Academic Director at lexcion training*
- 9:15 **Concept of State Aid & Notification**
- Articles 107 & 108 of the TFEU
  - Economic and non-economic activity
  - Advantage, selectivity and effect on trade
  - Notification procedure in practice
- Phedon Nicolaides**
- 10:30 **Coffee break**
- 11:00 **Relationship between State Aid and Structural Funds**
- CPR 1303/2013 and other State aid references
  - Annex XI: Ex-ante conditionality
  - What funds are deemed to constitute State aid?
  - How much State aid may be granted?
- Phedon Nicolaides**
- 11:30 **Compatibility with the Internal Market, the Principles of Necessity and Proportionality**
- Options for public authorities & types of assessment; Assessment by the Commission
  - Common compatibility and assessment principles
- Phedon Nicolaides**
- 12:30 **Lunch break**
- 13:30 **State Aid Exemption: *De minimis* Regulation**
- Importance of *de minimis* rules to ESI Funds
  - Thresholds and cumulation rules
- Phedon Nicolaides**
- 14:00 **State Aid Exemption: General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER)**
- Scope and categories of exempted aid
  - Thresholds, incentive effect, cumulation rules
- Phedon Nicolaides**
- 14:30 **GBER in Practice: Specific Provisions of Importance to ERDF and ESF Objectives**
- Broadband infrastructures; Local infrastructure; Training Aid; Aid for Employment
- Phedon Nicolaides**
- 15:00 **Coffee break**
- 15:30 **Regional Aid Guidelines & Case Studies**
- Regional State aid: Overview
  - What for: Operating aid and initial investment
  - Compatibility assessment of investment aid
- Katrien de Marez**  
*Case Handler - State Aid, Infrastructure and Regional aid, DG Competition, European Commission, Brussels*
- 16:30 **Infrastructure Funding & Case Studies**
- What do public authorities need to consider?
  - The 20% rule on infrastructure projects
- Phedon Nicolaides**
- 17:30 **End of the EStIF Forum & Distribution of Certificates**

### Errors, Irregularities and Financial Corrections in ESI Programmes

- 9:00 **Welcome and Introduction of Participants**  
**Christopher Bovis**  
*Chair in Law and Professor of European Business Law, University of Hull*
- 9:15 **The EU Public Procurement Regime: Requirements for ESI Programmes**
- Regulatory requirements and the application of public procurement to ESI Programmes
  - Types of breaches and irregularities
  - Key areas of risk
  - Errors, irregularities and fraud
  - In which areas irregularities occur and why?
- Christopher Bovis**
- 10:30 **Coffee break**
- 11:00 **Case study: Typical Errors and Irregularities in Procurement Cycle**
- Pre-tendering phase
  - Tendering phase
  - Post-award/contracting phase
- Christopher Bovis**
- 12:30 **Lunch break**
- 13:30 **Practical Exercise: Risk Assessment - How to Identify Irregularities and Reduce the Risks?**
- Using appropriate methodologies and strategies for risk assessment
  - How to apply risk rating in the control activities?
  - Practical examples on how to avoid irregularities
- Martina Gutvald**  
*Head of Department for Training and Risk Management, Service for Combating Irregularities and Fraud, Ministry of Finance, Zagreb*
- 14:30 **Treatment of Irregularities, Reporting, and Financial Corrections**
- When do irregularities lead to recoveries, withdrawals, and financial corrections?
  - Purpose and types of financial corrections
  - Pre- and post-payments
  - What accounting records have to be kept?
  - Financial corrections in annual accounts
- Gina McIntyre**  
*Chief Executive, Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), Belfast*
- 15:45 **Coffee break**
- 16:15 **Practical Exercise: How to Choose the Right Type of Financial Correction and how to Calculate the Rate of Corrections**
- Identification of errors and ineligible expenditure
  - How to calculate a correction
  - Financial correction regarding the performance framework and system deficiencies
- Gina McIntyre**
- 17:00 **Final Discussion and Q&A**
- 17:30 **End of the EStIF Forum & Distribution of Certificates**

## EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS JOURNAL - EStIF



The European Structural and Investment Funds Journal (EStIF) focuses on practical aspects of the implementation of ESI Funds in the European Union. Following the approach from practitioners to practitioners, EStIF offers a platform for hands-on expertise in structural policy, and encourages knowledge exchange in the field of ESI Funds.

Aiming to offer a comprehensive approach to all current issues, EStIF combines specialised articles on:

- The Programming Period 2014-2020
- Management, Implementation & Control of ESI Funds
- Best Practices and Experiences of Member States and Beneficiaries

Publication frequency: quarterly • Approx. 80 pages •  
 ISSN 21 96-82 68 • Subscription rate: 209 EUR  
[www.lexxion.eu/estif](http://www.lexxion.eu/estif)

Receive a 10% discount  
 on the participation  
 fee as an EStIF subscriber

## REGISTRATION FORM

### EStIF Interactive Forum: Management, Control & Audit of ESI Funds 11-12 May 2017 | Zagreb

#### VENUE

Hotel Dubrovnik  
 Ljudevita Gaja 1  
 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia

- YES, I will take part in the Interactive Forum
- at the fee for public sector: 985 EUR (excl.VAT)
  - at the fee for private sector: 1.385 EUR (excl.VAT)
  - I am subscriber of the EStIF journal and save 10%.
- Please send me information about ESI Funds issues for free.  
 I may unsubscribe from this service any time.

The participation fees include the training material, drinks and snacks during the breaks and lunch. VAT will be added if applicable. Special rates for students on request.

#### CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations should be made in writing per post or fax. Please note that the full fee will be charged for cancellations received after 26 April 2017. Nomination of a substitute remains possible. A cancellation arising by reason of too small a number of participants is effected no later than two weeks prior to the conference by the organisers. In this case the participation fee will be refunded. A requirement for reimbursement of travel and accommodation expenses as well as loss of working hours is not possible, unless such costs result from wantonly negligent or deliberate behaviour on the part of the organisers.

Press date: 13 February 2017. Subject to alterations. For further information or online registration please visit [www.lexxion.eu/events](http://www.lexxion.eu/events)



#### Please register with:

Lexxion Publisher  
 Post: Güntzelstr. 63 | 10717 Berlin, Germany  
 Phone: +49 (0)30-81 45 06-27 (Juliana Veit)  
 Fax: +49 (0)30-81 45 06-22  
 E-mail: [veit@lexxion.de](mailto:veit@lexxion.de)  
 Online: [www.lexxion.eu/estif-forum](http://www.lexxion.eu/estif-forum)

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Position/Department

\_\_\_\_\_

Institution

\_\_\_\_\_

Address Postal Code/Country

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Fax

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail

\_\_\_\_\_

VAT Reg. No. / No.TVA / BTW-Nr.

\_\_\_\_\_

Customer No. of EStIF-subscription

\_\_\_\_\_

Date, Signature

Register now:  
 19-22 June 2017  
 Potsdam (near Berlin)

**INTENSIVE SUMMER COURSE:**  
**Combating Fraud and Corruption in and by the Public Sector**  
 Academic Director: Jo Kremers, Ministry of Finance, The Netherlands