

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

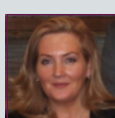


Katrien de Marez
DG Competition,
European Commission, Brussels

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
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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)
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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



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