



# Fourth annual EU conference on EAFRD financial instruments for agriculture and rural development in 2014-2020

Sofia, Tuesday, 5 June and Wednesday, 6 June 2018

Preliminary programme





## Background of the conference

The European Commission, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI), supported by the European Investment Bank (*fi-compass*), is pleased to announce the **Fourth annual EU conference on financial instruments under the European Fund for Agriculture and Rural Development (EAFRD)**, 5 – 6 June 2018 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

**The conference will be opened by Phil Hogan, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development. He will be joined by high-level representatives from the Bulgarian government, the Bulgarian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry as well as the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Investment Fund (EIF).**

Bulgaria will hold the Presidency of the Council of the EU at the time of this *fi-compass* conference.

Following the high-level opening statements, further distinguished speakers will present key topics related to agriculture, its current needs and future, and the design and implementation of financial instruments under the EAFRD in different Member States.

**In this conference, participants can expect to get an overview on:**

- the new Commission's proposal for supporting agriculture and rural development through the CAP and financial instruments,
- the opportunities provided by EAFRD financial instruments for EU Member States and regions following the Omnibus regulation and EFSI 2.0,
- ways in which EU Member States and regions are using EAFRD financial instruments for agriculture and rural development so far,
- the impact and results of EAFRD supported financial instruments on the development of their agricultural and agri-food economies.

Participants will hear concrete examples of the design and implementation of financial instruments in agriculture and rural development supported by the EAFRD in 2014-2020. They will also learn from experiences of the banking sector as well as the EIB Group in realising financial instruments on the ground.

This must-attend conference follows the previous annual *fi-compass* conferences dedicated to EAFRD financial instruments that took place in [Dublin](#) (2015), [Brussels](#) (2016) and [Paris](#) (2017) as well as a series of six macro-regional conferences that took place in [Vienna](#) (2015), [Riga](#) (2015), [Madrid](#) (2016), [Rome](#) (2016), [Warsaw](#) (2016) and [Tallinn](#) (2017).

We warmly invite all stakeholders involved or planning to become involved in the implementation of EAFRD financial instruments to participate in the discussions.



Mr Phil Hogan,  
European Commissioner for  
Agriculture and Rural Development



## Audience

The target audience for this seminar are:

- high level national and regional political representatives from all EU Member States dealing with agriculture and rural development,
- representatives from EAFRD managing authorities and paying agencies from all EU Member States,
- financial intermediaries, including all financial institutions, fund managers, guarantee institutions, their associations and all other financial sector stakeholders directly involved in the management of EAFRD financial instruments,
- farm union representatives,
- agricultural and agro-food advisory services as well as all associations dealing with the agricultural, agro-food and forestry sectors.



If capacity allows, also welcome will be:

- other stakeholders supporting financial instruments implementation such as other European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) managing authorities and bodies managing or implementing financial instruments under other ESI Funds, final recipients, consultancies and researchers.

## Costs

Registration is free. Participants are expected to finance their own travel and accommodation costs. In case of unforeseen circumstances such as force majeure or low participant numbers, the event might be moved to a different date or cancelled. In this case, registered participants will be informed immediately via email. The reimbursement of travel and accommodation expenses or work hours lost will not be possible.

## Objectives

The conference will:

- present the new proposal of the Commission for the EAFRD for the period 2021-2027,
- present recent developments and progress made in EU Member States regarding the design and implementation of financial instruments under the EAFRD,
- stimulate exchange and discussion on advantages, features, and the general suitability of financial instruments in delivering Rural Development Programmes' (RDP) objectives,
- inform stakeholders about the *fi-compass* advisory platform support to Member States and managing authorities and about further support available from cooperation between the European Commission and the EIB Group for agriculture and rural development.

## Venue

Hilton Sofia Hotel  
1 Bulgaria Boulevard  
1421 Sofia  
Bulgaria  
> [How to get there](#)

## Language

Simultaneous interpretation to/from EN/BG will be ensured for speakers and participants.  
Interpretation to/from other EU languages (DE, ES, IT, FR) will also be provided.

## Registration

Please register online via [www.fi-compass.eu](http://www.fi-compass.eu).  
The deadline for registration is **Tuesday, 29 May 2018**. Places for up to 300 participants are available.

[Click here to register to this event](#)

After registering online through the [www.fi-compass.eu](http://www.fi-compass.eu) website, registrants will receive an automatic email acknowledging receipt of their registration. This message is not a confirmation of participation. Registrants will be informed in a separate email whether or not they can attend the conference. The decision will be based on targeted audience, available seats and balanced representation of Member States and organisations. Please note that the primary target groups of the conference will have priority and other interested stakeholders will be informed only at a later stage if they can participate. This can take several weeks. When entering the venue, participants need to have their valid national identification document (ID) at hand. Participants who registered but will not be able to attend the conference are kindly asked to inform the organisers at: [events@fi-compass.eu](mailto:events@fi-compass.eu).



## Preliminary agenda

Sofia, 5 – 6 June 2018 (Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday)

Venue: Hilton Sofia Hotel, 1 Bulgaria Boulevard, 1421 Sofia, Bulgaria

Moderator: Ms Katrina Sichel, *fi-compass* expert

Day 1: 5 June 2018 (Tuesday afternoon)

13:45 *Doors open, registration and welcome coffee*

15:00 **Welcomes and introductions**

**Opening statement from**

**Mr Phil Hogan**, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development

**Host welcome and policy statements from**

**Mr Boyko Borisov**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria (*tbc*)

**Mr Rumen Porodzanov**, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry,  
Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU

**Introductory opening statements from**

**Mr Andrew McDowell**, Vice-President, European Investment Bank

**Mr Pier Luigi Gilibert**, Chief Executive, European Investment Fund

16:15 **EU farm policy statements on the future of EU and Bulgarian agriculture and its investment needs**

**Mr Pekka Pesonen**, Secretary General, COPA-COGECA

**Mr Ventsislav Varbanov**, Chairman of the Management Body, Bulgarian Association of the agricultural  
producers

**Ms Mariela Yordanova**, Member of the Management Board of the National Association of the Cereal  
Producers, Bulgaria

*Followed by Q&A and discussions*

17:00 **Investment needs in the Bulgarian agriculture**

**Ms Tsvetomira Staykova**, Director, Acting Head of the EAFRD managing authority, Ministry of Agriculture,  
Food and Forestry, Bulgaria

**Experience with EAFRD financial instruments for agriculture and rural businesses in Bulgaria**

**Mr Borislav Bogdanov**, Risk and Monitoring Department, Bulgarian Development Bank

*Followed by Q&A and discussions*

18:00 *End of day 1 of the conference*

Day 2: 6 June 2018 (Wednesday)

9:00 *Welcome coffee*

9:30 **Opening**

**Ms Lozana Vassileva**, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Bulgaria

9:40 **The new CAP post-2020 legal proposal: delivery mode, EAFRD grants & financial instruments**

**Ms Josefine Loriz-Hoffmann**, Director, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission

**Mr Michael Pielke**, Head of Unit F.3 Bulgaria, Slovenia, Poland and Croatia; Financial Instruments,  
DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission

*Followed by Q&A and discussions*

11:00 *Coffee and networking*

(continued overleaf)



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Day 2: 6 June 2018 (Wednesday)

### 11:30 **Implementation of financial instruments: control and audit framework**

#### **Control rules and principles on financial instruments**

**Mr Horea-Silviu Todoran**, Head of Unit H.4 Assurance and Audit – Rural Development, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission

#### **The Credit Fund in the region of Lombardy, Italy**

**Mr Paolo Zaggia** and **Mr Fabrizio Colarossi**, Direzione Sviluppo Prodotti e Servizi, Finlombarda S.p.A, Lombardy region, Italy

#### **The Credit Fund in Estonia**

**Mr Madis Reinup**, Member of the Board, Rural Development Foundation, Estonia

#### **The Guarantee Fund in Languedoc-Roussillon, Occitanie region, France**

**Ms Cindy Schulz**, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Agri-Food and Forestry, Occitanie region, France  
*Followed by Q&A and discussions*

12:45 *Lunch and networking*

### 14:00 **Experiences of EAFRD managing authorities in using financial instruments**

#### **The Credit Fund in Mecklenburg-West Pomerania, Germany**

**Dr Wolfgang Wienkemeier**, Head of Unit, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Mecklenburg-West Pomerania

#### **The Guarantee Fund for the region of Midi-Pyrenees, France**

**Banque Populaire Occitane**, Midi-Pyrenees, France (*tbc*)

#### **Multi-regional Guarantee Platform in Italy**

**Mr Valtiero Mazzotti**, Director General, Directorate for Agriculture, Hunting and Fisheries, Emilia-Romagna Region, Italy  
*Followed by Q&A and discussions*

15:30 *Coffee and networking*

### 16:00 **EAFRD – EFSI Initiative for agriculture**

*Presentation of first pilot cases*

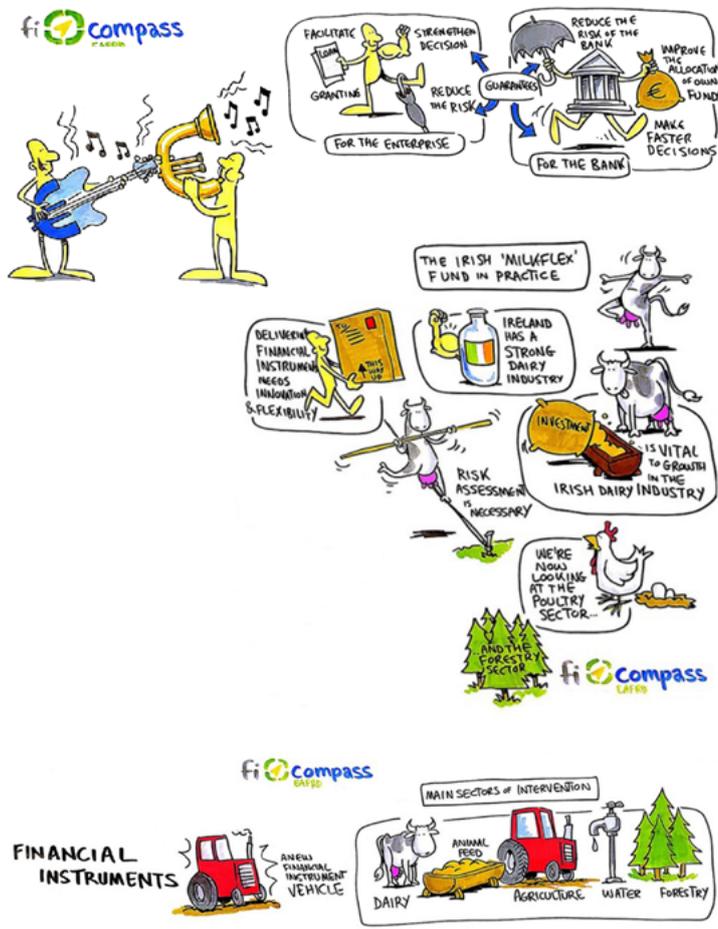
**Mr Dariusz Nieć**, Director for Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Poland

**Ms Pilar Rojas-Marcos González**, Head of Service, General Directorate of European Funds, Regional Ministry of Economy and Knowledge, Andalusia, Spain (*tbc*)

*Followed by Q&A and discussions*

### 17:30 **Closing remarks**

**Ms Josefine Loriz-Hoffmann**, Director, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission



*The proceedings of the fi-compass conference in Sofia will be graphically recorded.*

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