Macro-regional conference on EAFRD financial instruments for agriculture and rural development in 2014-2020

Warsaw, Monday, 24 October 2016

Programme
Conference topic
Following the first European fi-compass conference on financial instruments under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) which took place in Dublin on 23-24 June 2015 and the four macro-regional fi-compass seminars organised in Vienna (1 October 2015), Riga (29 October 2015), Madrid (31 May 2016) and Rome (13 June 2016), DG AGRI supported by the European Investment Bank (fi-compass) is now organising its fifth macro-regional event on financial instruments under the EAFRD. In this event, participants can expect to further their understanding of how financial instruments can help in their efforts to deliver the objectives of the EAFRD as well as gain knowledge on previous experience with financial instruments, including in field of agriculture and agri-business.
Participants will hear concrete examples from investors, bankers and managing authorities on the implementation of financial instruments in agriculture and rural development, on the advisory and other support available from fi-compass and the European Commission and the European Investment Bank Group in realising financial instruments on the ground.

Objectives
The purpose of the event is to:
• Provide Member States and managing authorities with an opportunity to learn more about the advantages, features and suitability of financial instruments in delivering RDP objectives;
• Provide the opportunity to discuss in depth the technical challenges that the managing authorities and the Member States are facing at the moment as regards the design and set up of financial instruments; and
• Present the range of support available from fi-compass, as well as from European Commission and EIB Group co-operation in general.

Venue
Sofitel Warszawa Victoria Hotel
Królew ska 11
00-065 Warsaw
Poland
> How to get here

Language
Simultaneous EN/PL and PL/EN translation will be ensured for speakers and participants.

Registration
The deadline for registration is Friday, 21 October 2016.
Maximum 150 participants will be accepted.

Click here to register to this event
As there is limited capacity for the seminar, we advise registering as soon as possible. Registered participants who will not be able to attend are kindly asked to inform the organisers at: fi-compass@eib.org

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.

Audience
The target audience for this seminar are:
• Agricultural and rural development representatives of EU Member States and regions
• EAFRD managing authorities and managing authorities of other European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)
• Financial institutions directly involved in the design, implementation and promotion of financial instruments established under the EAFRD rural development programmes (RDPs) as well as their associations
• Farm unions
• Forestry associations
• Business angels, business associations having rural entrepreneurs as their members
• Bodies managing or implementing financial instruments under other ESI Funds, etc.
Also welcome will be:
• Local or (macro-)regionally operating bodies implementing or considering implementing fund of funds
• Financial intermediaries such as banks or specialised agencies
• Capital investors
• Representatives of Local Action Groups, and, if capacity allows,
• Final recipients and other actors supporting financial instruments implementation.
Agenda
Warsaw, 24 October 2016 (Monday)
Address: Sofitel Warszawa Victoria Hotel, Królewska 11, 00-065 Warsaw, Poland
Moderator: Cathy Smith, fi-compass expert

08:30
Doors open, registration and coffee

09:00
Welcomes and introductions
Opening and welcome statements from
Mr Jerzy Plewa, Director-General, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission
Dr Ryszard Zarudzki, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Poland
Mr Luca Lazzaroli, Director-General, European Investment Bank
Mr Hubert Cottogni, Deputy Director, European Investment Fund
Followed by Q&A

10:15
Banks’ role in financing the agricultural sector and the rural areas in Poland
Mr Arkadiusz Lewicki, Director of Department of Public Programmes and Economic Entities, Polish Bank Association (ZBP)
Mr Maciej Majewski, Director of the Department for Public Programmes and Innovation, BGŻ BNP Paribas Polska S.A.
Ms Hanna Gilicińska-Cieślak, Expert, Banking Products and Procedure Department, SME and Agro Enterprise Office, SGB Bank S.A.
Followed by Q&A

11:15
Coffee and networking

11:45
Farm policy statements on the future of EU and Polish agriculture and its investment needs
Mr Pekka Pesonen, Secretary General COPA – COGECA
Mr Mirosław Borowski, Vice-President of National Council of Agricultural Chambers (KRIR)
Mr Jerzy Wierzbicki, President of the Polish Beef Association
Followed by Q&A

12:30
Lunch

14:00
EAFRD support for agriculture and rural businesses through financial instruments
EAFRD support through financial instruments – state of play and the new legal simplification proposals
Mr Nivelin Noev, Policy expert, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission
Ex-ante assessment for EAFRD financial instruments for agriculture
Mr Bernd Schuh, Austrian Institute for Regional Studies and Spatial Planning (OIR)
Role of EIB and fi-compass in supporting EAFRD financial instruments
Mr Bruno Robino, Head of fi-compass, European Investment Bank
Followed by Q&A and discussions

14:50
Case studies and lessons learned
Financial Engineering Support for Social Economy Development
Mr Grzegorz Czerniawski, Expert, The Social Economy Unit, The European Programmes, Department Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego, Poland
London Green Fund
Mr Alex Conway, European Programmes Director, Greater London Authority, United Kingdom
“New Széchenyi” Combined Micro Credit and Grant (CMCG) instrument
Dr Györgyi Nyikos, MFB Hungarian Development Bank, Hungary
Followed by Q&A and discussions

16:00
Coffee and networking

16:30
The SME Initiative explained
Mr Graham Cope, European Investment Fund
Followed by Q&A and discussions

17:00
Closing remarks
Mr Guido Castellano, Deputy Head of Unit, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission