



fi-compass event series

Thematic workshops on ESI Funds financial instruments

ESF financial instruments supporting self-employment and entrepreneurship (Thematic Objective 8) in the 2014-2020 programming period

Vienna, Thursday, 18 May 2017

Programme



Background of event

Financial instruments can be co-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) to support the investment priorities outlined in the ESF Operational Programmes of the Member States. Provided that they address an identified market gap, they can contribute to the achievement of the thematic objectives of the ESF.

Implementation of ESF financial instruments for the 2014-2020 programming period is underway. One of the thematic objectives offering strong potential for financial instruments is **Thematic Objective 8: 'Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility' (TO 8)**.

Experiences from already active financial instruments can be a source of inspiration and basis of discussion for practitioners who are interested in advancing with similar financial instruments.

The first thematic *fi-compass* workshop on ESF financial instruments supporting self-employment and entrepreneurship in the 2014-2020 programming period will take place on 18 May 2017 in Vienna.



Objectives

The purpose of the workshop is to:

- Provide participants with an opportunity to learn from the experiences of other Member States in implementing financial instruments to support TO 8 in the 2014-2020 programming period;
- Create a forum for participants to share their own experiences and progress in implementing financial instruments supporting self-employment and entrepreneurship;
- Enable participants to exchange on a peer-to-peer basis with the speakers and other participants on ways to deal with technical challenges that they face regarding the design, set-up and implementation of financial instruments under TO 8.



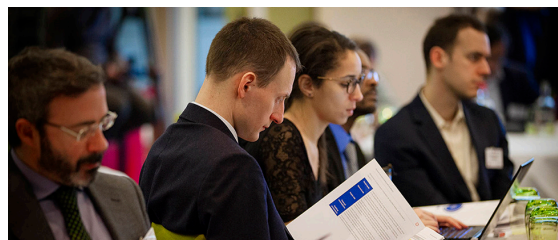
Methodology

During the workshop, experts will take participants through the different phases of the life cycle when designing and implementing financial instruments supporting TO 8, based on two case studies:

- **Entrepreneurship Promotion Fund 2014-2020, Lithuania**, and
- **SELFIEmployment, Italy**.

The workshop will consist of:

- Presentations of the two case studies by experts directly involved in their set-up;
- Question and answer sessions and peer-to-peer discussions following each of the case study sessions; and
- Networking opportunities with speakers and participants.



Audience

This thematic workshop is designed especially for ESF managing authorities and other stakeholders from all EU Member States directly involved or planning to become involved in the design, set-up and implementation of financial instruments related to TO 8. Participant numbers will be limited to encourage peer-to-peer interaction.

Venue

Sofitel Vienna Stephansdom

Praterstrasse 1

1020 Vienna

Austria

[> How to get there](#)

Language

The event language will be English.

Interpretation between Italian and English will be provided.

Registration

Please register online via www.fi-compass.eu.

The deadline for registration is **Friday, 12 May 2017**.

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

After registering online through the www.fi-compass.eu website, registrants will receive an automatic email acknowledging receipt of their registration. This message is not a confirmation of participation. Within two weeks after application, the registrants will be informed by a separate email whether or not they can attend the event. The decision will be based on available seats, targeted audience and balanced representation of organisations.

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.



Agenda

Vienna, 18 May 2017 (Thursday)

Venue: Sofitel Vienna Stephansdom, Praterstrasse 1, 1020 Vienna, Austria

Moderation: **Pieter Coppens**, European Investment Bank

9:00 – 9:30 Registration and coffee

9:30 – 9:40 **Welcome**

Andrea Da Pozzo, European Commission

Pieter Coppens, European Investment Bank

9:40 – 11:00 **Entrepreneurship Promotion Fund 2014-2020, Lithuania**

Rūta Dapkute, Managing authority, Lithuania

Inga Beiliuniene, INVEGA, Lithuania

The Entrepreneurship Promotion Fund 2014-2020 (EPF 2014-2020) was set up under a trilateral agreement between the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour and INVEGA (fund of funds manager). The Fund is estimated to issue at least 1000 loans for business start-up or development. These new businesses are expected to create at least 1800 new jobs. The Fund aims to help at least 440 persons encountering difficulties on the labour market to become self-employed. The EPF 2014-2020 is managed by INVEGA which selected the Lithuanian Central Credit Union representing the consortium of 42 credit unions to manage the financial instrument.

The representatives from the organisations directly involved in implementing the EPF 2014-2020 in Lithuania will take participants through the process of establishing the financial instrument. The speakers will describe step-by-step the different life cycle phases, analysing the essential practical aspects and key challenges, and discuss how lessons learnt from the EPF implemented under the 2007-2013 programming period were taken into consideration to further expand the successful use of ESF resources for the support of self-employment and entrepreneurship in the 2014-2020 programming period.

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee and networking opportunity

11:30 – 12:30 **Q&A and peer-to-peer discussion**

Facilitation: **Ando Siitam**, European Investment Bank

On the basis of the case study from Lithuania, participants will have the opportunity to discuss with the speakers and other peers participating in the workshop the opportunities and challenges of implementing financial instruments supporting self-employment and entrepreneurship.

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break and networking opportunity

14:00 – 15:30 **SELFIEmployment, Italy**

Martina Rosato, Agenzia Nazionale Politiche Attive Lavoro (ANPAL), Italy

Concetta Granato, Invitalia, Italy

Launched in March 2016 in Italy, the SELFIEmployment Fund operates with resources belonging to the 'Youth Employment Initiative National' Operational Programme (OP) and to the 'Active Policies Systems for Employment National' OP. Both OPs are managed by Agenzia Nazionale Politiche Attive Lavoro (ANPAL, National Agency for active labour market policies) which is responsible for the deployment of labour active policies and employment services and ensuring the coordination of ESF across Italy, and is supervised by the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies. The SELFIEmployment Fund is managed by Invitalia (National Agency for inward investment promotion and enterprise development). It provides loans to young people (18-29 years old) not in education, employment, or training (NEET), and aims to support and promote self-employment through individual business start-ups. The fund expects to support approximately 4200 NEETs.

Experts directly involved in the launch of the SELFIEmployment Fund will provide participants with insights from the process of designing, setting up and implementing the financial instrument.

Continued overleaf



Agenda

Vienna, 18 May 2017 (Thursday)

Venue: Sofitel Vienna Stephansdom, Praterstrasse 1, 1020 Vienna, Austria

Moderation: **Pieter Coppens**, European Investment Bank

15:30 – 16:20 **Q&A and peer-to-peer discussion**

Facilitation: **Bruno Robino**, Head of *fi-compass*, European Investment Bank

On the basis of the SELFIEmployment case study from Italy, participants will have the opportunity to discuss with the speakers and other peers participating in the workshop the opportunities and challenges of implementing financial instruments supporting self-employment and entrepreneurship in 2014-2020, and to exchange the peer-to-peer on their own experiences and/or plans to implement TO 8 focussed financial instruments in their Member State or region.

16:20 – 16:30 Final remarks

Pieter Coppens, European Investment Bank



fi-compass event series

Thematic workshops on ESI Funds financial instruments

In autumn 2016, *fi-compass* started a new series of events dedicated to financial instruments supporting specific thematic objectives in the programming period 2014-2020.

These workshops share the experience of managing authorities, financial intermediaries and final recipients and take participants through the different phases of the life cycle of designing and implementing a thematic/ sector focused financial instrument and allow for direct interaction between participants:

- Managing authorities' representatives showcase their experiences in establishing the financial instrument and their considerations when undertaking the ex-ante assessment, designing the financial instrument, engaging with other funders/ investors and running the financial intermediary selection process. Public procurement and State aid challenges, where applicable, may be particularly interesting to highlight in this regard;
- Financial intermediaries give their feedback/ share their experiences in 'bidding' for the management of the financial instrument, and securing co-financing as appropriate. They might also set out their experiences and challenges in targeting and assisting potential final recipients in preparing their projects for financing, mobilising technical support, grant and/or other resources to fund the projects;
- Where possible, final recipients elaborate on the benefits they saw in obtaining financing from the financial instrument, how this helped catalyse their project, as well as the challenges experienced in meeting collateral, reporting and monitoring requirements required by the financial intermediary.

We invite stakeholders directly involved or planning to become involved in the implementation of financial instruments supporting specific thematic objectives to stay in touch with *fi-compass* and attend our upcoming thematic events.

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