



Second fi-compass ESF Conference

Financial instruments funded by the European Social Fund – boosting social impact

Brussels, 8 – 9 March 2018

Programme





Background of the conference

The European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL), supported by the European Investment Bank, is pleased to announce the **Second *fi-compass* ESF Conference ‘Financial instruments funded by the European Social Fund – boosting social impact’**, taking place on 8 and 9 March 2018 in Brussels, Belgium.

The 2-day conference will be opened by Ms Marianne Thyssen, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility. Further distinguished speakers will present at the conference key topics related to financing social inclusion and social impact investing in the 2014-2020 programming period in a variety of thematic sessions.

Conference day 1 – Boosting social impact in the main focus

Boosting social impact can contribute to making policies more responsive to social change. The ESF should encourage and support innovative social enterprises and entrepreneurs as well as innovative projects taken on by other actors within the social economy. In particular, testing and evaluating innovative solutions before scaling them up is instrumental in improving the efficiency of social policies.

The conference will provide a platform for delegates from EU Institutions, Member States, social partners and other stakeholders to present innovative models and concepts addressing social challenges and to discuss the ESF co-financed financial instruments as a possible ground for innovative financing, thus helping to deliver on the European Pillar of Social Rights.

The conference’s focus on new ways for financing social challenges is also in line with the directions of Reflection Paper on the future of EU finances: the ESF is expected, alongside the other ESI Funds, to be funding areas of highest value added and invest in people, from education and training to health, equality and social inclusion. Moreover, the need to set result-based public policies entails the opportunity to engage all relevant stakeholders and practitioners involved in the delivery of ESF priorities.

Conference day 2 – Emphasis on financial instruments co-financed with ESF in 2014-2020

On day 2 of the conference, participants will have the opportunity to learn from examples of using financial instruments under the ESF promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship through microfinance and supporting social entrepreneurship and social inclusion. Speakers from a number of Member States will share their practical experiences and pass on key lessons learnt related to the process of designing and implementation of ESF financial instruments on the ground.

Moreover, two FI-Lab sessions held in parallel in the afternoon of day 2 of the conference offer participants a chance to explore practical topics related to the conference main themes in an interactive and informal way.

This must-attend conference for all stakeholders interested in ESF financial instruments follows the first high-level *fi-compass* conference dedicated to ESF financial instruments that took place in [Brussels](#) (2016).



Ms Marianne Thyssen,
European Commissioner for
Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and
Labour Mobility



We warmly invite all stakeholders involved or planning to become involved in the implementation of ESF financial instruments in the 2014-2020 programming period to participate in this must-attend conference.



Objectives

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

- The recent developments in social impact investing and innovative financing solutions across the EU,
- The role of the EU and the ESF in social financing today and tomorrow,
- How the effect of financial instruments on the development of social policies is perceived,
- The opportunities provided by ESF financial instruments for EU Member States and regions,
- Importance of microfinance in promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship,
- How social entrepreneurship and social inclusion can be supported,
- The support options available to Member States and managing authorities and about further support available from cooperation between the European Commission and European Investment Bank Group (EIB Group) for social inclusion and social impact.

Participants will hear concrete examples of the design and implementation of financial instruments and other financing solutions. They will also learn from experiences of the private sector as well as the EIB Group in realising investments on the ground.

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.

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 conference is:

- ESF managing authorities from all EU Member States and regions,
- Financial institutions directly involved in the design, implementation and promotion of financial instruments established under the ESF programmes or other EU funding sources, as well as their associations,
- Other stakeholders involved and planning to become involved in the design, implementation and promotion of ESF financial instruments.

Venue

Renaissance Brussels Hotel
Rue du Parnasse 19
1050 Brussels
Belgium

> [How to get there](#)

Language

The conference language will be English. Simultaneous translation to/from French, Italian and Spanish will be provided.

Registration

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

The deadline for registration is **Friday, 2 March 2018**.

[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 conference. The decision will be based on available seats, targeted audience and balanced representation of Member States and organisations.



Agenda

Brussels, 8 – 9 March 2018

Venue: Renaissance Brussels Hotel, Rue du Parnasse 19, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

Moderator: Ms Cathy Smith, *fi-compass* expert

Day 1: 8 March 2018 (Thursday)

- 8:30 – 10:00 *Doors open, registration and welcome coffee*
- 10:00 – 10:45 Welcomes and introductions
Opening statement from
Ms Marianne Thyssen, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility
Introductory opening statements from
Mr Georgi Pirinski, Member of the European Parliament
Mr Brando Benifei, Member of the European Parliament
- 10:45 – 11:30 **Keynote speeches – why social impact**
Professor Miguel Poiares Maduro, Director of the School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute
Ms Madeleine Clarke, Chair of the Board of Directors, European Venture Philanthropy Association (EVPA)
Mr Filippo Addarii, CEO, PlusValue
- 11:30 – 12:00 *Coffee break*
- 12:00 – 13:00 **The role of the EU in social impact financing**
Ms Andriana Sukova, Deputy-Director General, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission
Mr Krzysztof Balon, Vice-President, Section for Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
Mr Luis Fau Sebastian, Deputy Head of Unit, DG Economic and Financial Affairs, European Commission
Mr Simon Barnes, Director of Advisory Department, European Investment Bank
Mr Ulrich Grabenwarter, Deputy Director, Equity Investment, European Investment Fund
- 13:00 – 14:30 *Lunch and networking*
- 14:30 – 16:00 **Social impact investing – a way forward**
Facilitation: **Mr Frank Lee**, Head of Financial Instruments Division, European Investment Bank
Mr Tomas Bokström, RISE Research Institutes of Sweden
Mr Mika Pyykkö, The Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra
Mr François de Borchgrave, KOIS Invest, Belgium
Panel discussion followed by Q&A
- 16:00 – 16:30 *Coffee break*
- 16:30 – 17:30 **Innovative financing instruments – experiences from the ground, ideas for the future**
Facilitation: **Mr Bruno Robino**, Head of *fi-compass*, European Investment Bank
Mr Luk Zelderloo, Secretary-General, European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)
Mr Oliver Gajda, Executive Director, European Crowdfunding Network
Mr Adriano Pallaro, Responsible for international funding and member of the General Management of Banca Etica, Italy
Ms Laura Catana, Ashoka, Romania
Panel discussion followed by Q&A
- 17:30 – 17:45 **Closing remarks for day 1**
Mr Jader Canè, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission
- 17:45 – 20:00 *Networking opportunity at the conference venue*

(continued overleaf)

The list of speakers may be subject to change.



Agenda

Brussels, 8 – 9 March 2018

Venue: Renaissance Brussels Hotel, Rue du Parnasse 19, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

Moderator: Ms Cathy Smith, *fi-compass* expert

Day 2: 9 March 2018 (Friday)

9:00 – 9:30 *Welcome coffee*

9:30 – 11:00

Promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship through microfinance

Mr Roberto Estelles Colom, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Mr Nicola Benaglio, European Microfinance Network (EMN)

Ms Rūta Dapkute, Managing authority, Lithuania

Ms Laura Penna, Deputy Head of Social Impact Bank, Unicredit, Italy

Followed by Q&A

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee break

11:30 – 13:00

Supporting social entrepreneurship and social inclusion

Ms Aleksandra Dmitruk, Managing authority, Poland

Mr Luca Galassi and Mr Gabriele Pazzola, Managing authority of the ESF Regional OP, Sardinia, Italy

Ms Lilia Stoyanovich, Managing authority, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Bulgaria

Mr Dimitar Cherkezov, Head of Unit, EU Operational Programmes, Fund Manager of Financial Instruments in Bulgaria (FMFIB)

Followed by Q&A

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch and networking

14:30 – 15:45

FI-Lab – parallel sessions

Two FI-Lab sessions will be held in parallel in the afternoon and will offer participants a chance to explore two practical topics related to the conference's main themes in an interactive and informal way.

FI-Lab A

How much impact do you expect from microfinance?

Facilitation: Mr Andrea Da Pozzo, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Mr Andrea Limone, CEO, PerMicro, Italy

Ms Giulia Boioli, Communication Manager, PerMicro, Italy

In this interactive session, participants will learn about measuring social impact of microfinance institutions (MFIs) in a practical, participatory way.

FI-Lab B

Brainteaser session – State aid and financial instruments

Facilitation: Mr Ando Siitam, European Investment Bank

Ms Barbara Cattrysse, Legal Counsel, European Investment Bank

Using a game format, participants will work in small groups to tackle a set of brainteaser questions related to State aid and financial instruments.

15:45 – 16:00

Closing remarks

Mr Loris Di Pietrantonio, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

16:00

End of conference

The list of speakers may be subject to change.



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