



EAFRD Financial Instruments for agriculture and rural development in 2014-2020

Seminar

1 October 2015

Vienna, Austria

Programme



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The Europe 2020 strategy for growth and jobs called for a stronger role of financial instruments in 2014-2020. The European Council subsequently gave a mandate to the European Commission that the programming of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) should be used to significantly increase the overall EU support from these funds to leverage-based financial instruments, in particular for SMEs. An increase of the use of ESIF financial instruments, to a level almost double that of the 2007-2013 programming period, is also set out in the Investment Plan for Europe. To achieve this, the new legal and policy framework has widened the scope of financial instruments to include all thematic objectives and all five ESI funds. The framework also gives more implementation options to Member States.

Within this framework, the European Commission Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) has the objective to increase the use of financial instruments under the EAFRD in terms of budget, territorial coverage and types of investment. To support the achievement of this objective, DG AGRI undertook a set of activities such as:

- the setting up, together with other Commission Services responsible for ESIF, of the *fi-compass* integrated advisory platform on financial instruments for period 2014-2020, which provides comprehensive advice and learning opportunities to the benefit of Member States, their Managing Authorities but also for the wider public. The *fi-compass* platform has been set up in partnership with the European Investment Bank (EIB).
- the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the EC and the EIB on co-operation in the field of agriculture and rural development within the EU, in July 2014. This MoU paves the way for closer co-operation between the two institutions in various fields, including financial instruments and research & innovation.

Financial instruments can be co-funded by the EAFRD to support the investment priorities outlined in the Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) of the Member States. They can potentially support the implementation of many measures covered by the EAFRD, provided that they address an identified market gap or sub-optimal investment situation, i.e. areas where banks are unwilling to lend and/or where the private sector is unwilling to invest or finds access to financing difficult, for instance in young farmers, new agricultural businesses without sufficient credit history or assets as collateral, new technologies and products entering the market, energy and climate efficient investments, etc

To allow the use of EAFRD resources for financial instruments, Member States have to programme these in their RDPs and implement them in their programme areas. Financial instruments may have various forms (such as loans, guarantees, equity) and cover either all economic sectors supported by the programmes or those parts of them, or types of investments, which face restricted access and/or unfavourable conditions for funding from private resources.

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Audience

The target audience for this seminar are EAFRD Managing Authorities who are directly involved in the design, implementation and promotion of financial instruments established under EAFRD rural development programmes as well as farm unions, forestry associations and business associations having rural entrepreneurs as their members. Also welcome will be local or (macro-) regionally operating bodies implementing or considering implementing fund of funds, financial intermediaries and, if capacity allows, final recipients and other actors supporting financial instruments implementation.

Venue

Sofitel Vienna Stephansdom
Praterstrasse 1
1020 Vienna

Language

The seminar's language is English.
German and Czech interpretation will be provided.

Costs

Registration is free. Participants are expected to finance their own travel and accommodation costs.

What will the seminar offer?

Following the first European *fi-compass* conference on Financial instruments under the EAFRD which took place in Dublin on 23-24 June 2015¹, a macro-regional *fi-compass* seminar is being organised in Vienna (1 October 2015). It will be followed by another seminar in Riga (29 October 2015). 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 can expect to hear concrete examples from investors, bankers and Managing Authorities on the implementation of financial instruments in agriculture and rural development and the advisory and other support available from *fi-compass* and the EC and EIB in realising financial instruments on the ground. Strong audience interaction is foreseen through panel sessions with high-level participation, questions and answers segments as well as roundtables.

The seminar will feature **Mihail Dumitru**, Deputy Director General, Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission; and participants including, **Zdeněk Adamec** and **Pavel Sekáč**, Deputy Ministers of Agriculture, Czech Republic.

How to book your place at the seminar?

Please register via <https://www.fi-compass.eu>.

The deadline for registration is **28 September 2015**. As there is limited capacity for the seminar, we advise registering as soon as possible.

Priority in the registration will be given to Managing Authorities and financial intermediates from the host country as well as participants from the EU central macro-region (e.g. Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Poland, Italy, Croatia, etc.).

1. <https://www.fi-compass.eu/event/246/financial-instruments-sustainable-investment-agriculture-and-rural-development-dublin-2015-06>

EAFRD Financial Instruments for agriculture and rural development

The purpose of the seminar 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 Rural Development Programme objectives;
- To 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
- To present the range of support available from *fi-compass*, as well as from European Commission and European Investment Bank co-operation in general.

Vienna, 1 October 2015

Sofitel Vienna Stephansdom
Praterstrasse 1
1020 Vienna

08:30

Doors open, registration and coffee

09:00

Introduction and opening remarks

Mihail Dumitru, Deputy Director General, Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission

Markus Hopfner, Director, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Austria

- Needs, challenges and strategies for agriculture and agri-food industry

09:30

The investment needs in Europe's agriculture and agri-food industry

Max Schulman, Chairman Cereals Working Party, COPA – COGECA

Challenges and strategies for agriculture in Austria

Nikolaus Morawitz, Presidium, EU and international relations, Austrian Chamber of Agriculture

Supporting investments in Austrian agriculture and rural areas

Elmar Ritzinger, Director, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Austria

Followed by Q&A

10:30

Coffee

- Investment through financial instruments: Relevant experiences and lessons from agriculture, rural development, and beyond

11:00

Experience in managing financial instruments under shared management and the challenges ahead

Bruno Robino, European Investment Bank Group

Equity instruments for agriculture and agri-business

Luigi Amati, Board of Directors Business Angels Europe and CEO META Group

Guarantee institutions in supporting EU agriculture and rural development and their value added

Giorgio Venceslai, Executive Director, ISMEA (Italy)

Followed by Q&A

12:00

Lunch

- Programming and implementation of FIs under the EAFRD 2014-20

13:15

2014-20 EAFRD programmes and the potential use of financial instruments

Martin Scheele, Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission

13:30

State of play of Financial Instruments in the EAFRD 2014-2020 programmes – cases from the ground

Kees van Drunen, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Netherlands

Maja Marinček/Alenka Šesek, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Slovenia

Jose Rodriguez, Ministry of Agriculture and Sea, Portugal

Followed by Q&A

14:45

Coffee

- Support for 2014-20 EAFRD FI implementation

15:15

fi-compass advisory support for financial instruments under the EAFRD

Kieran Kearney, European Investment Bank

15:30

Ex-ante assessment methodology for financial instruments supporting agriculture

Sebastian Beiglböck, Austrian Institute for Regional Studies and Spatial Planning

15:45

Support available to Managing Authorities and stakeholders under July 2014 EC-EIB Memorandum of Understanding on co-operation on financial instruments supported by the EAFRD

Nivelin Noev, Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission

Ioannis Tsakiris, European Investment Fund

Followed by Q&A and informal roundtable discussions

16:30

Closing remarks

Martin Scheele, Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission



