

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

Seminar

29 October 2015

Riga, Latvia

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.

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

Radisson Blu Daugava Hotel
24 Kugu Street
LV-1048 Riga

Language

The seminar's language is English.
Simultaneous translation to Latvian 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 Riga (29 October 2015). It follows another similar seminar in Vienna (1 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.

How to book your place at the seminar?

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

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

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.

Riga, 29 October 2015

Radisson Blu Daugava Hotel
24 Kugu Street
LV-1048 Riga

08:30

Doors open, registration and coffee
[Welcomes and introductions](#)

09:00

Opening remarks
Phil Hogan, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development
Jānis Dūklavs, Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia

Supporting investments in Latvian agriculture and rural areas in 2014-2020

Aivars Lapiņš, Counsellor, Ministry of Agriculture, Latvia
Followed by Q&A

[Farmers' view](#)

10:00

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

Oana Neagu, COPA – COGECA
Challenges and strategies for agriculture in Latvia
Maira Dzelzkaleja, Vice-President of Farmers' Parliament, Latvia
Followed by Q&A

10:30

Coffee

[Experiences with Guarantee Funds](#)

11:00

Experience in managing financial instruments under shared management and the challenges ahead
Junona Bumelyte, European Investment Bank
Loan Guarantee Instrument for Agriculture under the EAFRD 2014-2020
Graham Cope, European Investment Fund
The EU guarantee institutions and their value-added for agriculture and rural development in 2014-2020
Katrin Sturm, Secretary General of the European Association of Guarantee Institutions (AECM)
Tamas Lesko, Director, Rural Credit Guarantee Foundation, Hungary
Followed by Q&A

12:15

Lunch

[Programming and implementation of FIs under the EAFRD 2014-20](#)

13:30

2014-20 EAFRD support for financial instruments in 2014-2020
Martin Scheele, Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission

[State of play of Financial Instruments in the EAFRD 2014-2020 programmes – cases from the ground](#)

13:45

Past and new experience with EAFRD financial instruments for agriculture and rural businesses in Bulgaria
Anton Asparuhov, Director, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Bulgaria
Financial instruments under the EAFRD – Addressing the financial gap in agriculture
Szilvia Bencze, Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary
Making investment opportunities for farmers and rural businesses with EAFRD financial instruments in Estonia
Merle Saaliste, Ministry of Agriculture, Estonia
Followed by Q&A

14:45

Coffee

[Support for 2014-20 EAFRD FI implementation](#)

15:15

fi-compass advisory support for FIs under the EAFRD
Kieran Kearney, European Investment Bank

15:30

Ex-ante assessment methodology for financial instruments supporting agriculture
Bernd Schuh, Austrian Institute for Regional Studies and Spatial Planning
Followed by Q&A and discussions

16:30

Closing remarks
Nivelin Noev, Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission

