



EAFRD financial instruments for agriculture and rural development in 2014-2020

Seminar

31 May 2016

Madrid, Spain

Programme



Index

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Context | 3 |
| Information | 4 |
| Objectives | 5 |
| Agenda | 7 |

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 European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (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 European Commission 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.

This seminar is the first of a series falling under the new work programme of *fi-compass*. It builds on the success of the previous events in 2015 (Dublin, Vienna and Riga) and the progress made so far on financial instruments supported by the EAFRD.

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 RDPs 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, representatives of Local Action Groups, and, if capacity allows, final recipients and other actors supporting financial instruments implementation.

Venue

Meliá Avenida América
36 Calle de Juan Ignacio Luca de Tena
Madrid 28027
Spain

Language

The seminar's language is English.
Simultaneous translation to Spanish will be provided.

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.

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 2015 and the two macro-regional *fi-compass* seminars organised in Vienna ☐ (1 October 2015) and Riga ☐ (29 October 2015), DG AGRI supported by the EIB (*fi-compass*) is now organising its third macro-regional seminar on financial instruments under the EAFRD. 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/or 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. Presentations by DG AGRI on the novelties on EAFRD financial instruments, state of play and interactions with the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), will also be provided.

Strong audience interaction is foreseen through panel sessions, questions and answers segments as well as roundtables. Coffee breaks will encourage networking and exchange of ideas.

How to book your place at the seminar?

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

The deadline for registration is **27 May 2016**. As there is limited capacity for the seminar, we advise registering as soon as possible.

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 RDP 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 EIB Group co-operation in general.

EAFRD financial instruments for agriculture and rural development in 2014-202031 May 2016 (*Tuesday*)

Meliá Avenida América, 36 Calle de Juan Ignacio Luca de Tena, Madrid 28027, Spain

Moderator: **Cathy Smith****09:00**

Doors open, registration and coffee

Welcomes and introductions**09:30**

Opening remarks

Mihail Dumitru, Deputy Director-General, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission**Begoña Nieto Gilarte**, Director General of Rural Development and Forestry Policy, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Spain**Experience implementing financial instruments for agriculture****Antonio Flores Lorenzo**, Deputy Director General for Fostering the Development of Rural Areas, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Spain*Followed by Q&A and discussion***Farmers' view****10:45****The investment needs of farmers in the EU and the EU agro-food industry****Sofia Björnsson**, Chairwoman of the Working party on Rural Development, COPA - COGECA**Investment needs in Spanish agriculture****Tomás Rojas Pacheco**, Finance Director of Cooperativas Agro-alimentarias de España*Followed by Q&A and discussion***11:30**

Coffee

The role of banks in delivering financial instruments for agriculture**12:00****The EU guarantee institutions and their value-added for agriculture and rural development****Carlos Oliveira**, Agrogarante (Member of AECM - European Association of Guarantee Institutions)**Financing needs of the farming sector****Ángel Espinosa Merino**, Director Banca de Empresas, Banco Cooperativo Español, S.A.*Followed by Q&A and discussion***EU legal novelties on financial instruments****12:30****EAFRD support for financial instruments – state of play and what is new compared to the past****Nivelin Noev**, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission**Off-the-shelf financial instruments and links between EAFRD financial instruments and the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI)****Gregorio Dávila Díaz**, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission*Followed by Q&A and discussion***13:15****Role of the European Investment Bank Group in supporting EAFRD financial instruments****Luis Cañete**, European Investment Bank**Guadalupe de la Mata**, European Investment Fund*Followed by Q&A and discussion***14:00**

Lunch

Financial instruments in 2014-2020: case studies**15:00****Relevant cases from EAFRD 2014-2020 programmes and beyond****Merle Saaliste**, Ministry of Agriculture, Estonia**Györgyi Nyikos**, Hungarian Development Bank**Dana Zachi**, Romanian Agricultural Guarantee Fund*Followed by Q&A and discussion***16:30**

Coffee

Support for 2014-20 EAFRD financial instrument implementation**17:00****fi-compass support for EAFRD managing authorities****Bruno Robino**, European Investment Bank**Kieran Kearney**, European Investment Bank*Followed by Q&A and discussion***17:30**

Closing remarks

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

