

Financial Instruments for delivery of the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund

Seminar series

27 May, Brussels,
2 June, Vienna,
9 June, Warsaw

Preliminary seminar programme



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Context

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 negotiations 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. More recently, the Investment Plan for Europe (COM(2014)903) has set out the objective of the overall doubling of the use of ESIF financial instruments as compared to 2007-2013 levels.

The new legal and policy framework has widened the scope of financial instruments to include all thematic objectives and all five funds - [the European Regional Development Fund \(ERDF\)](#), [the Cohesion Fund \(CF\)](#), [the European Social Fund \(ESF\)](#), [the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development \(EAFRD\)](#), and [the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund \(EMFF\)](#). The framework also gives more implementation options to Member States.

To support the achievement of the above objective, *fi-compass*, an integrated platform providing advice and learning opportunities to the benefit of Member States, their Managing Authorities but also a wider public has been set up by the European Commission (EC), in partnership with the European Investment Bank (EIB).

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Audience

The target audience for this seminar is ERDF and CF Managing Authorities who are directly involved in the design, implementation and promotion of financial instruments established under ERDF and CF operational programmes.

Also welcome will be bodies implementing or considering implementing fund of funds, financial intermediaries and, if capacity allows, final recipients and other actors supporting Financial Instruments implementation.

Language / Costs

The seminars' language is English. Registration is free. Participants are expected to finance their own travel and accommodation costs.

How to book your place at the events

Please register via www.fi-compass.eu. The three seminars will be open for registration on 23 April 2015. Please register only for one of them, as the contents of the three seminars are the same.

The deadline for registration is 19 May 2015 (Brussels) and 22 May (Vienna and Warsaw). As there is limited capacity for the events, we advise registering as soon as possible.

What will the events offer?

Three identical *fi-compass* seminars are being organised in three locations in the EU (Brussels, Vienna and Warsaw). Participants can expect to further their understanding of how financial instruments can help in their efforts to deliver ESIF 2014-2020 objectives, in particular applied to the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund.

Case studies on financial instrument solutions developed by regions and Member States, new advisory products issued by *fi-compass* to support the design and set-up of financial instruments and the latest European Commission guidance on regulatory aspects will be presented in these three seminars.

27 May, 2 June and 9 June 2015

The purpose of the seminars 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 ESIF 2014-2020 objectives, in particular the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund;
- 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
- Present the latest regulatory guidance by the European Commission.

Structure of the seminars

The seminars will have a plenary session and workshop discussions.

In the plenary session, presentation of challenges faced and solutions found by various Managing Authorities will be combined with the introduction of the latest *fi-compass* products and regulatory guidance by the European Commission.

In the workshops, the latest *fi-compass* products on the one hand and the recent guidance by the European Commission on the other will be presented and discussed. Participants will have the opportunity to express their points of view and the solutions given to the various topics.

The workshops will be repeated twice, and therefore all participants will have the opportunity to attend both.

fi-compass workshop

The design and set-up of financial instruments

By the time the seminars take place, *fi-compass* will have prepared several advisory products to help the design and set up of financial instruments: on the ex-ante assessment, financial products, the action plan and the governance and implementation structure.

The aim of the workshop is to revisit the relevant steps of an action plan that facilitates the design and set-up of financial instruments. In particular, the ex-ante assessment methodology and the development of an investment strategy will be elaborated in detail. Discussions with the participants will focus on the challenges they face in the first steps of the life of a financial instrument. *fi-compass* experts will lead the discussion.

EC guidance workshop

In this workshop, the European Commission will present and explain the various guidance documents issued by the time the seminars take place in the context of ESIF financial instruments, in particular in relation to ex-ante assessments, working capital, phased payments to financial instruments and the combination with other forms of assistance.

27 May 2015, Brussels

Hotel Silken Berlaymont
Brussels, Blvd. Charlemagne, 11-19
1000 Brussels

09:00

Registration and coffee

9:30

Welcome and Introduction

10:00

State of play of financial instruments in the
ERDF 2014 - 2020 programmes

3 case studies presented by their MAs:
challenges and solutions

Moderator: **Amparo Montan**

11:00

Coffee break

11:30

Parallel workshops

Workshop no 1

Updates on EC guidance

Moderator: **Ulf Johansson/Kai Böhme**

Guidance: Glossary, ex-ante assessment, working capital,
phased payments, combination with other forms of
assistance

2 June 2015, Vienna

Imperial Riding School
Renaissance Hotel, Ungargasse 60
1030 Vienna

Workshop no 2

fi-compass advisory support:
The design and set-up of FIs

Moderation: **Amparo Montan**

Products: methodology of the ex-ante assessment,
advice on FI products, the action plan (providing the
umbrella for the design and set-up phase), the investment
strategy/business plan of FIs, and the governance and
implementation structure of FIs.

13:00

Lunch break

14:00

Second round of workshop sessions

15:30

Conclusions

16:00

End of the seminar

9 June 2015, Warsaw

Marriott Hotel,
Al. Jerozolimskie 65/79
00-697 Warsaw

Moderators :
Amparo Montan
Ulf Johansson
Kai Böhme

