

AutumnAcademy

Contracting, Simplification and Anti-Fraud Measures in the ESI Funds and EEA Grants Regulations 2021-2027

 02 - 04 October 2024 | Lisbon

Fee: 1900 EUR (excl. VAT)

VAT will be added when applicable

Payment method: Invoice

DESCRIPTION

How to increase absorption rate at the Programme level due to simplification and improved prevention? How to construct a verification methodology for on-the-spot checks? How to draft better contracts? Join us for the Autumn Academy in Lisbon and become an expert on the New Programming Period.

In this workshop, we will not only examine the requirements for **reporting and financial control for 2021-2027** but also point out **the major changes and challenges** for Audit Authorities in **the New Programming Period**. We will compare the Financial Management and Audit rules in 2021-2027 and 2014-2020 Programming Periods. Our special focus will be on **financial planning**, increasing the use of **Simplified Costs Options, anti-fraud measures** and protecting **the audit trail**. Workshop participants will also benefit from lessons learned from the 2014-2020 Cohesion Policy Programming Period in regards to financial management and audit for the new Structural Funds programmes, SEE grants, and the new national RRF plans.

What will you learn

- Overview of EU Funds 2021-2027 – What is new?
- Simplified Cost Options section of the new OP – Are you ready for simplification? Implementing New Programmes;
- Requirements for reporting and financial control for 2021-2027: special link between finance and performance;
- Contracting of the projects;

- Management verifications in practice: Administrative and on-the-spot verifications;
- Challenges of the control practitioners; System Set-up and Audit Findings in State Aid and Public Procurement;
- The Major Changes and Challenges for Audit Authorities in the Programming Period 2021 – 2027;
- The Management of ESI Funds and the Most Common Irregularities.

How do we work

We aim to make the course as interactive as possible. Participants will have the opportunity to exchange views on the course topics. Workshop exercises and games will be used to help participants get to grips with practical tools and methodologies.

Who is this workshop for

- Experts from Managing Authorities, Audit Authorities, Intermediate Bodies, Regional and local authorities, Court of Auditors, including professionals from different management and control structures, willing to participate in a team-building event;
- External evaluators;
- Beneficiaries of EU funded projects.

PROGRAMME

Wednesday 2 October 2024

09.00

Welcome Coffee

Welcome note by ESI Funds Academy, Introduction Round

09.15

Overview of EU Funds 2021-2027 – What is New?

- EU Cohesion Policy 2021-2027 – summary of changes;
- Which challenges does the new Programming Period bring?
- Eight shared management funds;
- Novelties in roles and responsibilities of the bodies involved;

Alina Ploae, PhD, counsellor in a Managing Authority for a Cross Border Cooperation Programme and University Lecturer

10.30

Coffee Break

11.00

Are you ready for simplification?

- Simplification process for 2021-2027;
- Pros and cons of the simplification;
- SCOs in practice;
- Simplification related to technical assistance funds.

Alina Ploae, PhD, counsellor in a Managing Authority for a Cross Border Cooperation Programme and University Lecturer

12.30

Lunch

14.00

The role of the technical assistance in implementing New Programmes

- Technical Assistance at the initiative of the Member States;
- Main actors involved in management and control of technical assistance; Who can participate?
- Possibilities of absorption in Technical Assistance;
- Which indicators exist? Role and implications at Programme level.
- Roundtable discussions: How to increase absorption rate at Programme level using Technical Assistance funds?

Alina Ploae, PhD, counsellor in a Managing Authority for a Cross Border Cooperation Programme and University Lecturer

16.00

18.00 **Walking tour to discover the heart of Lisbon**

Walking tour to discover the heart of Lisbon (60-90 minutes) and a get-together dinner in a restaurant in Lisbon.

Starting point: Hotel lobby

Thursday 3 October 2024

09.00 **Contracting of the projects in 2021-2027**

- Legal Framework – new conditions for 2021-2027 programming period;
- Duties of Institutions and actors crucial for contracting;
- Lessons learned in MFF 2014-2020;
- Differences in contracting projects and the technical assistance funds.
- Roundtable discussions: Contracting process as a tool to increase absorption rate at Programme level

- What about contracting phased projects
- Closure of 2014-2020 programmes – key points regarding the closure process
- Phased projects? What are they and how are they contracted in the 2021-2027 programming period?
- Roundtable discussions: lessons learnt from 2007-2013 programming period closure with phased projects and how can we do better when closing 2014-2020 and moving to 2021-2027?

Ioana Mindru, counsellor, in the Managing Authority for INTERREG IPA CBC Romania – Serbia Programme

10.30

Coffee Break

Networking

11.00 Practicalities of the contracting process

- Preparation for contracting in the New Programming Period;
- Practicalities of the contracting process: dos and don'ts;
- Practical exercise: How to better draft a contract?

Ioana Mindru, counsellor, Managing Authority for INTERREG IPA CBC Romania – Serbia Programme

12.30 Lunch

14.00 Management verifications in practice: Administrative and on-the-spot verification

- New system conditions for reporting and financial control for 2021-2027;
- Novelties in roles and responsibilities of the bodies involved;
- How to put together a verification methodology for on-the-spot checks;
- Which challenges does the new programming period bring for the management verifications of the NextGen Programmes;
- What is needed for assessment and control.

Alina Ploae, PhD, counsellor in a Managing Authority for a Cross Border Cooperation Programme and University Lecturer

15.00 Challenges of the control practitioners – practical exercises, and case studies

- Control of the public procurement procedures;
- Controlling of the results, including sustainability and increasing awareness related to the impact of the results;

- Eligibility conditions of the technical assistance funds for salaries, training, renting, external expertise and services, Publicity requirements, Communication activities, procurement of IT equipment and other costs.

Alina Ploae, counsellor, Managing Authority for INTERREG IPA CBC Romania – Serbia Programme

16.00 End of the official Programme of Day Two

Friday 4 October 2024

09.00 Management of and Most Common Irregularities in ESI Funds

- Definition of an irregularity and difference between error and irregularity;
- How to avoid errors during the implementations of the projects?
- Overview on most common types of irregularities;
- Which irregularities can be prevented by controllers?
- How to prevent errors and how to treat irregularities.

Alina Ploae, PhD, counsellor in a Managing Authority for a Cross Border Cooperation Programme and University Lecturer

10.30 Coffee Break

Coffee Break and Networking

11.00 Changes and Challenges for Audit Authorities in the Programming Period 2021 – 2027

- Impact of simplification on the future of audits: Are there any changes in the scope of system audits, audits of operations and audits of accounts?
- What does Audit Authority expect from the Managing Authority/Intermediate Body?
- Better focus on state aid compliance;

- The future audits related to the technical assistance funds.

Alina Ploae, PhD, counsellor in a Managing Authority for a Cross Border Cooperation Programme and University Lecturer

12.30 Lunch

14.00 **New Challenges brought by the Regulations 2021-2027**

- Pros and cons of the control requirements and the impact of the simplification for the procedures and daily activities of the practitioners; how to promote changes in the public systems;
- Special focus on green public procurement procedures;
- Technical assistance and the circular economy including reduction, resource efficiency, reuse, repair and recycling of the resources;
- Avoidance of the double financing and overlapping with the projects funded by the Recovery and Resilience Facility;
- Tools for strengthening fraud prevention using technical assistance funds.
- Team Game: Tips and tricks for 100% absorption rate: more control or better prevention...

Alina Ploae, PhD, counsellor in a Managing Authority for a Cross Border Cooperation Programme and University Lecturer

16.00 **End of the official Programme**

Handing out of the certificates

EXPERTS

- **José Eduardo Baptista**
Event Manager
 - **Alina Ploae**
Expert on Preventing Irregularities, Control and Audit
 - **Ioana Mindru**
Expert on European Economy and Finances
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VENUE

4* Hotel in Lisbon

Hotel Açores Lisboa

Av. Columbano Bordalo Pinheiro 3, 1070-060 Lisboa, Portugal

Next to the training materials the training fee is covering:

- Catering during the training (3 coffee breaks and a lunch every day);
- Walking Tour in Lisbon in the evening of the first day of the training;
- Get-together dinner in a restaurant in Lisbon in the evening of the first day.