

Financial Instruments in ESI Funds: Bringing Sustainable Results

 13 - 15 November 2024 | Lisbon

Fee: € 1900 (excl. VAT)

VAT will be added when applicable

Payment method: Invoice

DESCRIPTION

How to achieve best results with Financial Instruments? How to ensure that Financial Instruments are implemented correctly and bring sustainable effects? How to prepare the ex-ante assessment and a smart investment strategy? How to safeguard compliance with the State Aid rules?

Participation in this workshop will provide you with current knowledge and handy tools to deal effectively with FI during the new Multiannual Financial Framework. Our expert practitioners will discuss vital FI topics, including the legal framework, the cooperation between Funds Manager and Financial Intermediaries, the selection process of the Intermediaries as well as the set-up of individual instruments, to make your job easier, more effective and to bring you confidence. We will also discuss the particular importance of FI in the post- COVID period in bringing relief and development to our economies.

The workshop will cover the following issues:

- Lessons Learned in Programming Period 2014-2020;
- Cooperation between Fund of Funds Manager and Financial Intermediaries;
- Structuring and Implementation of Loan Instruments;
- Selection of Financial Intermediaries;
- Structuring and Implementation of Guarantee Instruments;
- Ensuring Compliance with State Aid Rules;
- Combination of Grants with FI's;
- Equity Fund Practice;
- Problem-solving

We believe learning happens best when practical knowledge and experience are involved. Therefore, we will take a deep look into a set of international case- studies and engage in problem-solving sessions.

WHO IS THE WORKSHOP FOR?

- Representatives from public authorities in charge of financial management, control, and audit, especially from Fund or Funds Manager
- Managing Authorities
- Certifying Authorities
- Audit Authorities
- Financial Intermediaries
- ESI Funds experts from regional and local authorities
- Beneficiaries of EU Financial Instruments i.e.: Private and public companies, associations, research institutes
- Public and private banks
- International, national and local associations and networks
- Consultants

After the completion of the first day of the Autumn Academy we are inviting the participants to a walking tour to discover the spirit of Lisbon, ending in a restaurant with a get-together dinner.

PROGRAMME

Wednesday 6 November 2024

09.00 Welcome note by ESI Funds Academy

Introduction of participants; tour de table

09.15 Introduction to the Topic, lessons learned in Programming Period 2014-2020 and presentation of the Programming Period 2021-2027

- short questionnaire;
- overview of Multi-annual Financial Framework 2021-2027;
- opportunities offered by the 2021-2027 framework;

- facts and figures for 2014-2020: lessons learned;
- what is happening before the FI – programming period? Case study;
- the legal structure that enables financial instruments – new cohesion package;
- financial instruments in Cohesion Policy;
- rationale behind the use of financial instruments and key preconditions for the implementation;
- the Lifecycle of FI's – from design to closure

Ana Paule  **Expert on Financial Instruments**

10.45 **Coffee Break**

Networking

11.05 **Typical design elements for financial instruments**

- ex-ante assessment;
types of financial instruments – which one to choose;
- selection of the implementation option;
- funding Agreement – structure according to regulation;
- Investment strategy, Business Plan with practical examples and content;
- Example of Financial plan – defining parameters with participants;
- Management Costs and Fees

Ana Paule  **Expert on Financial Instruments**

12.30 **Lunch**

13.30 **Selection of Financial Intermediaries**

- discussion on the role of financial intermediaries;
- relevant legislation;
- types of potential financial intermediaries / financial institutions;
- market research as an introduction to the public procurement process – joint preparation of an

example;

- public procurement and the design of competitive calls – Necessary steps and main documentation;
- **case study:** selection of financial intermediaries for the implementation of a financial instrument in the form of a risk sharing loan!

Ana Paule Expert on Financial Instruments

14.30

Structuring and Implementation of Financial instrument in combination with Grant in a single operation

- discussion and joint review of the participants' experience;
- general rules and overview of possibilities;
- what is eligible for financial instruments?
- state aid rules – a starting point;
key elements of the product to be defined
ways to ensure leverage;
- controlling and reporting;
- visibility and transparency;
- **Case study** – Structuring a risk sharing loan financial instruments with capital rebate in practice;
Optional: Case study – Structuring a guarantee financial instrument with subsidized interest rate

Ana Paule Expert on Financial Instruments

15.00

Structuring and Implementation of Financial instrument in combination with Grant in a single operation

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 - Case study – Structuring a guarantee financial instrument with subsidized interest rate
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16.30 End of the official programme of day one

18.00 Get together dinner

After the completion of the first day of the Winter Academy we are inviting the participants to a walking tour to discover the spirit of Lisbon with a get together dinner
Starting point: Hotel Lobby

Thursday 7 November 2024

09.00 Structuring and Implementation of Guarantee Instruments

- Guarantee Instruments
- General rules
- Key parameters of guarantee to be decided
- Case study from Poland: Loan Portfolio Guarantee for Innovative SMEs – guarantee supported by interest rate subsidy

10.30 Coffee Break

11.00 Ensuring Compliance with State Aid Rules I

- The concept of State aid and its application to ESI Funds and financial instruments
- State aid regulations applicable for financial instruments
- General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) 2014-2020
- What are the conditions for an exemption?
- Specific requirements applying to FIs

- Rules on Risk Finance

12.30 Lunch break

13.30 Ensuring Compliance with State Aid Rules II: Case Studies

- How to use de minimis aid and off the shelf financial instruments
- How to ensure that all aid is passed on to final beneficiaries

+Case Study

15.00 Problem Solving Session

Send us your questions and cases in advance and discuss them
with our experts

16.00 End of day two

Friday 8 November 2024

09.00 Combination of Grants with FIs

- Set-up of the combined support scheme – loan and grant (basic rules defined on EU and national level)
- Embedment in the national support system (co-existence with grants and independent financial

instruments)

- Application under different thematic objectives, experiences
- 2014-20 and the preparation for the model after 2020

10.30

Coffee break

11.00

Equity Fund Practice

- Equity Instruments
- General rules
- Key parameters to be decided
- How does an equity fund work in terms of rules?
(i.e. management fee, hurdle rate, carried)
 - The economics of a fund, including costs related to compliance

12.15

Lunch

13.15

Summary of Main Points, Lessons to be Drawn and Advice, and Final Comments by Participants

Chair

13.45

End of the Academy & Distribution of Certificates

EXPERTS

- **Artur Bartoszewicz, Ph.D**

Expert on planning and multi-annual programming standards

- **José Eduardo Baptista**

Event Manager

VENUE

4* Hotel in Vienna

Next to the training materials the trainign fee is covering:

- a) the Catering during the training (3 Coffee Breaks and a Lunch every day);
- b) Visiting a “Wintermarkt” in Vienna in the evening of the First Day of the Training;
- c) Networking Dinner in the evening of the First Day of the Training.