



fi-compass event series

Thematic workshops on ESI Funds financial instruments

ESF financial instruments supporting employment, entrepreneurship and social inclusion in the 2014-2020 programming period

Rome, Wednesday, 31 January 2018

Preliminary programme





Background

Financial instruments can be co-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) to support the investment priorities outlined in the ESF Operational Programmes (OP) of the Member States. Provided that they address an identified market gap, they can contribute to the achievement of the thematic objectives of the ESF. Implementation of ESF financial instruments for the 2014-2020 programming period is underway. Both, **Thematic Objective 8 (TO8) 'Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility'** and **TO 9 'Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination'**, are offering strong potential for financial instruments and meaningful case studies.

Experiences from already active financial instruments can be a source of inspiration and basis of discussion for practitioners who are interested in advancing with similar financial instruments.

The thematic *fi-compass* workshop on ESF financial instruments supporting employment, entrepreneurship and social inclusion in the programming period 2014-2020 will take place on 31 January 2018 in Rome. A selection of case studies with practical insights into the implementation process of TO8 and TO9 financial instruments from a variety of EU Member States will be presented during the workshop.

This event will build on the experience sharing and peer-to-peer discussions both of the workshop on financial instruments supporting TO8, which was organised by *fi-compass* on 18 May 2017 in Vienna, and on financial instruments supporting TO9, which was organised by *fi-compass* on 3 October 2017 in Madrid.



Objectives

The purpose of the workshop is to:

- Provide participants with an opportunity to learn from the experiences of other Member States in implementing financial instruments to support TO8 and TO9 in the programming period 2014-2020;
- Create a forum for participants to share their own experiences and progress in implementing financial instruments supporting employment and labour mobility;
- Enable participants to exchange on a peer-to-peer basis with the speakers and other participants on ways to deal with technical challenges that they face regarding the design, set-up and implementation of TO8 and TO9 financial instruments.



Audience

This thematic workshop is designed especially for ESF managing authorities and other stakeholders from all EU Member States directly involved or planning to become involved in the design, set-up and implementation of financial instruments related to TO8 and TO9. Participants' number will be limited in order to encourage peer interaction.

Methodology

The workshop will consist of:

- Presentations of case studies by experts directly involved in the set-up of ESF financial instruments;
- Question and answer sessions and peer-to-peer discussions; and
- Networking opportunities with speakers and participants.

Venue

NH Collection Roma Vittorio Veneto
Corso d'Italia, 1
00198 Rome, Italy

> [How to get there](#)

Language

The event languages will be English and Italian.

Simultaneous interpretation between Italian and English will be provided.

Registration

Please register online via www.fi-compass.eu.

The deadline for registration is **Friday, 26 January 2018**.

[Click here to register to this event](#)

After registering online through the www.fi-compass.eu website, registrants will receive an automatic email acknowledging receipt of their registration. This message is not a confirmation of participation. Within two weeks after application, the registrants will be informed by a separate email whether or not they can attend the event. The decision will be based on available seats, targeted audience and balanced representation of Member States and organisations.

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.



Preliminary agenda

Rome, 31 January 2018 (Wednesday)

Venue: NH Collection Roma Vittorio Veneto, Corso d'Italia, 1, 00198 Rome, Italy

Moderation: Mr Bruno Robino, Head of *fi-compass*, European Investment Bank

- 9.30 – 10.00 Registration and coffee
- 10.00 – 10.15 **Welcome**
Mr Andrea Da Pozzo, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission
Mr Bruno Robino, Head of *fi-compass*, European Investment Bank
- 10.15 – 11.00 **JEREMIE under the ESF – Experiences of the Sicilian region**
Mr Gianluca Palermo, European Investment Fund
Within the ESF Regional OP 2007-2013, the managing authority has committed EUR 15 million to the implementation of the JEREMIE initiative, managed by the European Investment Fund (EIF) acting through the JEREMIE Holding Fund. The initiative engages financial intermediaries providing financial support for Sicilian micro-enterprises, with a particular emphasis on social inclusion, social entrepreneurship and inclusion of disadvantaged groups in the labour market.
The speaker will describe step-by-step the different life cycle phases, analysing the essential practical aspects and key challenges, and discuss the lessons learned with a view to implementation of ESF financial instruments in the 2014-2020 programming period.
- 11.00 – 11.15 **Q&A and peer-to-peer discussion**
On the basis of the case study, participants will have the opportunity to discuss with the speaker and other peers participating in the workshop the opportunities and challenges of implementing ESF financial instruments.
- 11.15 – 11.45 Coffee and networking
- 11.45 – 12.20 **HRDOP Loan programme in Hungary in the 2014-2020 programming period**
Dr Szabó János Zoltán, Ministry of Human Resources, Hungary
Dr Györgyi Nyikos, Director of EU Competence Center Directorate, Hungarian Development Bank
The HRDOP 5.1.1-17 Loan programme, the loan instrument co-financed by the ESF under the Human Resources Development Operational Programme (HRDOP), was launched by Hungarian authorities in November 2017. This is the first time, an ESF financial instrument was established in Hungary.
The representatives from the Ministry and the Hungarian Development Bank (tbc) directly involved in the implementation of the financial instrument will describe from the perspective of authorities establishing an ESF financial instrument for the first time, the implementation process of the loan programme, analysing the essential practical aspects and key challenges and discussing the lessons learnt.
Followed by Q&A
- 12.20 – 13.00 **OP HRD Risk-sharing Micro-Finance facility in Bulgaria in the 2014-2020 programming period**
Ms Lilia Stoyanovich, Managing authority, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Bulgaria
Fund Manager of Financial Instruments in Bulgaria EAD, Fund of Funds, Bulgaria
The Risk-sharing Micro-Finance facility is the first ESF financial instrument established in Bulgaria. The representatives from the organisations directly involved in implementing the Risk-sharing Micro-Finance facility co-financed by ESF under the Bulgarian Human Resources Development Operational Programme (OP HRD) will take participants through the process of establishing the financial instrument. The speakers will describe step-by-step the different life cycle phases they are going through, emphasising essential practical aspects and key challenges, and share their lessons learnt.
Followed by Q&A
- 13.00 – 14.30 Lunch break and networking opportunity

(Continued overleaf)



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14.30 – 16.00 **Innovative instruments promoting employability**

Innovative ESF financial instruments in the Sardinia region

Mr Luca Galassi and **Mr Gabriele Pazzola**, Managing authority of the ESF Regional OP, Sardinia, Italy

Sardinia has established a wide range of financial instruments co-financed with ESF resources. The representatives from the managing authority of the ESF Regional OP in Sardinia will describe to participants the state of play and experiences of the region with different types of innovative instruments in the 2014-2020 programming period.

Followed by Q&A

ESF contribution to the EaSI financial instrument under Art. 38.1(a) CPR

Ms Guadalupe de la Mata, European Investment Fund

The expert from the EIF will describe to participants the possibility of contributing ESF resources to the European Commission's Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) under article 38.1(a) of the CPR, setting up a separate priority axis with co-financing of up to 100% within the Operational Programme. The presentation will also provide participants with insights from the process of designing and setting up the financial instrument and lessons learned from a pilot project so far.

Followed by Q&A

16.00 – 16.20 **Reporting of ESF financial instruments in the 2014-2020 programming period – Italian experience**

Mr Salvatore Vescina, Agenzia per la Coesione Territoriale, Italy

16.20 – 16.45 **Final Q&A and peer-to-peer discussion**

16.45 – 17.00 **Final remarks**

Mr Jader Cané, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission



fi-compass event series

Thematic workshops on ESI Funds financial instruments

In autumn 2016, *fi-compass* started a new series of events dedicated to financial instruments supporting specific thematic objectives in the programming period 2014-2020.

These workshops share the experience of managing authorities, financial intermediaries and final recipients and take participants through the different phases of the life cycle of designing and implementing a thematic/ sector focused financial instrument and allow for direct interaction between participants:

- Managing authorities' representatives showcase their experiences in establishing the financial instrument and their considerations when undertaking the ex-ante assessment, designing the financial instrument, engaging with other funders/ investors and running the financial intermediary selection process. Public procurement and State aid challenges, where applicable, may be particularly interesting to highlight in this regard;
- Financial intermediaries give their feedback/ share their experiences in 'bidding' for the management of the financial instrument, and securing co-financing as appropriate. They might also set out their experiences and challenges in targeting and assisting potential final recipients in preparing their projects for financing, mobilising technical support, grant and/or other resources to fund the projects;
- Where possible, final recipients elaborate on the benefits they saw in obtaining financing from the financial instrument, how this helped catalyse their project, as well as the challenges experienced in meeting collateral, reporting and monitoring requirements required by the financial intermediary.

We invite stakeholders directly involved or planning to become involved in the implementation of financial instruments supporting specific thematic objectives to stay in touch with *fi-compass* and attend our upcoming thematic events.

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