

PROGRAMME

Online Course

Monitoring and Evaluation of the EU Structural Funds programmes 2021-2027

14-15 June 2023

Introduction

Description

This online seminar is designed to help ECA officials understand the monitoring systems and evaluation requirements for the new EU Structural and Cohesion Funds programmes, 2021-2027. We will consider in detail what the new monitoring and evaluation provisions are within the new Regulations and what this means in practice. We examine whether Managing Authorities are collecting the best possible monitoring data. While Programme Authorities are now planning evaluations for the 2021-2027 period, they also continue to conduct evaluations of their 2014-2020 programmes and projects. We ask whether Programme authorities are learning the lessons from ongoing evaluations and if they are clear about how to measure the impact of interventions.

Target Group

Officials working in ECA on EU Cohesion policy

Method

The seminar includes lectures, workshops and exercises and provides ample time for Question and Answer sessions. You will be guided by Robin Smail, Visiting Expert of EIPA and by Bob Simon, a Member State practitioner, who have many years of experience working with both ERDF and ESF

Objectives

At the end of the seminar, you will have:

- a clear understanding of all the evaluation and monitoring requirements for new programmes; and the main changes between 2014-2020 and 2021-2027
- a clear understanding of how to measure the progress and success of Structural Funds projects and programmes


Trainers

Robin Smail, Visiting Expert, European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA), Maastricht (NL)

Bob Simon, ERDF Luxembourg Managing Authority (LU)

Contact

Eveline Hermens, Programme Organiser, European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA), Maastricht,
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Programme

WEDNESDAY 14 June 2023

- 13.00 **Welcome, objectives and *tour de table***
Marco Lopriore, Expert EIPA
- 13.05 **The Evaluation-Policy Cycle: monitoring, evaluation, indicators**
- the policy-evaluation cycle; logic of intervention
 - *ex ante* evaluations and *ex ante* project appraisal
 - monitoring and reporting; key monitoring tasks, data requirements
 - quantifying projects and programmes, result-orientation
 - the impact chain, output and result indicators
- Robin Smail, Visiting Expert EIPA, Consultant and (UK/IE) (former National Expert EC, and formerly of Evaluation Division, Scottish Enterprise)*
- 14.05 **WORKSHOP: output and result indicators**
- 14.40 Coffee break
- 15.00 **The new Monitoring and Reporting Framework, 2021-2027**
- monitoring – real time reporting – financial progress & indicators
 - the New Performance Framework, the Mid-term review
 - programme template – baselines and setting targets
 - **EXERCISE: using unit-cost benchmarks**
 - reporting template – measuring progress
 - Fund Regulation Annexes – common indicators
 - new Programme samples
- Robin Smail*
- 17.00 End of Day 1

THURSDAY 15 June 2023

- 13.00 **Issues from day 1**
- 13.05 **Management Challenges for Monitoring and Data collection/usage**
- Outputs, results, impact, participant – relevant terminology and examples
 - Selecting the right indicators to measure achievements
 - lessons learned from 2014-2020: MIS, best indicators, performance framework, data collection, interpreting data for reporting, programme amendments, closure
 - lessons learned from the preparation and negotiation of 2021 – 2027: programme indicators, methodology, data collection
 - Q&A
- Bob Simon, ERDF Managing authority, Luxembourg*
- 14.05 Coffee break

- 14.20 **WORKSHOP: Evaluation Questions**
Robin Smail
- 14.50 **Evaluation case studies: 4 pilot projects**
 - Evaluation objectives
 - Evaluation outcomes / findings*Bob Simon*
- 15.15 **The new Evaluation framework, 2021-2027**
 - the purpose of evaluation – criteria, timing, measuring impact, Value for Money
 - evaluation questions, methods, techniques: evaluations during the programming period; ex post evaluations*Robin Smail*
- 15.35 Short coffee break
- 15.45 **The new Evaluation framework, 2021-2027 (continued)**
 - evaluation requirements, 2021-2027
 - The Evaluation Plan, evaluation studies
 - Theory-based and Counter-factual evaluation methods
 - **EXERCISE: evaluation method**
 - Other evaluation techniques: economic impact assessments, ex post Cost-Benefit Analysis*Robin Smail*
- 17.00 End of the training