

# PROGRAMME

Online Course

## Financial Management of EU structural funds programmes 2021-2027

3-4 July 2023

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## Introduction

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### Description

How do the new Structural Funds Regulations change Financial Management rules for 2021-2027? What are the key live issues for Financial Management of Operational Programmes in the 2014-2020 period and how have these evolved in the new period? This seminar will address these questions and take a close look at the programme, financial and reporting templates for the new programmes. There will be a special focus on extending the use of simplified cost options, the most frequent audit issues (eg. eligibility of expenditure).

### 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 Marco Lopriore, Expert EIPA and Robin Smail, Visiting Expert of EIPA who have both years of experience in structural funds both in ERDF and ESF.

### Objectives

At the end of the seminar, you will have a clear understanding of:

- programme finance, financial tables and the flexibility proposed for 2021-2027
- the automatic decommitment rules (n+3/n+2)
- key issues for the eligibility of expenditure
- the extended use of simplified cost options and how to choose between them
- the link between finance and performance, using the Performance Framework


### Trainers

*Marco Lopriore*, Expert, European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA), Maastricht (NL)

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

### Contact

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## Programme

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### MONDAY 3 July 2023

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- 13.00 **Welcome, objectives and *tour de table***  
*Marco Lopriore, Expert EIPA*
- 13.05 **The new Programmes: financial framework, programme structure and programme management**
- Financial framework, Partnership Agreements
  - programme structure and finance, Specific Objectives
  - Enabling conditions, concentration, programme instruments
  - from Programme template to new Programmes
  - spending fields and climate targets
  - programme performance and project selection
  - **workshop: determining financial allocations for priorities and activities**
- Robin Smail, Visiting Expert EIPA, Consultant, UK/IE (and former Detached National Expert, EC)*
- 14.30 Coffee break
- 14.50 **Eligibility of Expenditure**
- Scope of intervention of ERDF, ESF+ and CF
  - Highlight on timing
  - Eligible costs: direct staff costs, VAT,
  - Durability and relocation, location, and visibility
  - **Exercise**
- Marco Lopriore*
- 17.00 End of Day 1

### TUESDAY 4 July 2023

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- 09.00 **Using Simplified Cost Options**
- New options in 2021-2027
  - Review of the SCO and the template of Annex V
  - Key issues in using SCO
  - **Exercise on SCO**
- Marco Lopriore*
- 10.30 Coffee break
- 10.50 **Programme finance & financial management**
- Programme Finance, financial planning, mid-term review
  - automatic decommitment, co-finance rates, payment applications
  - the accounting year, calculation of the annual balance
  - Financial Control; Management Verifications; Audit changes
  - Programme closure
  - **Workshop: management verifications and risk**
  - Transmission of financial information
  - Linking performance and finance, the Performance Framework
- Robin Smail*
- 13.00 End of the course