

Evaluation and Monitoring of EU Structural and Cohesion Funds Programmes, 2014-2020

Introduction

What is this course about?

This seminar will deal with the evaluation, monitoring and reporting requirements for the 2014-2020 period, focusing on evaluation methods and concepts, indicators and measuring impact. This will include the methods used for conducting ex ante programme and project appraisals, evaluations during the programming period and ex post impact assessments of projects and programmes. We will outline the expectations for Evaluation Plans and discuss particular challenges for Hungary in the new programming period. Areas of focus include:

- theory-based and counterfactual evaluations, and other favoured best practice techniques in evaluation;
- key issues for evaluations during the programme period and ex post evaluations;
- ex ante project appraisal techniques (with reference to the new Major Projects application form and a basic introduction to cost-benefit analysis);
- designing evaluation plans, conducting evaluation studies, aspects of fieldwork.
- we will also consider further the changes to reporting requirements within the Annual Implementation Report and the challenges for programmes of the Performance Framework and the Performance Review.

How will it help you?

At the end of the seminar participants should have a clear understanding of all the basic evaluation and monitoring requirements associated with EU Cohesion Policy. Participants should also have a quick general tool kit for generating indicators and measuring performance, assessing programmes and projects, and conducting theory-based and counter-factual evaluations and measuring impact.



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Programme

Evaluation and Monitoring of EU Structural and Cohesion Funds Programmes, 2014-2020

MONDAY 3 JULY 2017

- 08.45 **Registration**
- 09.00 **Introduction to the seminar and assessment of participants' experience**
- 09.10 **Review of new European Commission framework for evaluation and monitoring and key evaluation concepts for 2014-2020**
- New programmes and result-orientation; indicators
 - New evaluation and monitoring requirements; the new Performance Framework
 - The new conceptual framework
 - The evaluation-policy cycle: stages and methods
 - Evaluation questions and measuring impact
Robin Smail, Consultant and Visiting Expert EIPA (UK) (former National Expert EC, and formerly of Evaluation Division, Scottish Enterprise)
- 10.40 Coffee break
- 11.00 **Workshop: Generating Result and Output indicators, challenging sectors and issues**
- 11.45 **Evaluation methods, issues and technical concepts**
- Evaluation objectives, scope of evaluations
 - Testing the intervention rationale and logic
 - Assessing quantitative performance; theory-based impact assessment; counter-factual impact assessment
 - Assessing processes
 - Transferring ownership
 - Logic models
Dr Iain Jenkins, Director, EKOS Consultants, Glasgow (UK)
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.15 **Workshop: The practical application of technical concepts in evaluation**
- Logic models and theory of change
 - Determining the nature and scope of an evaluation
 - Designing evaluation questionnaires
Dr Iain Jenkins
- 15.45 Coffee break
- 16.00 **Monitoring and Reporting requirements**
- Monitoring tasks
 - Annual Implementation Report
 - Performance Framework



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17.00 **Exercise: Using the performance framework, 2014-2020**

Robin Smail

17.45 **End of day 1**

TUESDAY 4 JULY 2017

09.15 **Issues for ex ante project appraisal techniques, major projects, revenue-generating projects**

- Project objectives, context and rationale, market failure, theory of change
- Demand, feasibility, options, environmental impact assessment
- Financial and economic appraisal: calculating the costs, the benefits (NPV, IRR for major projects)
- Risk assessment, sensitivity analysis
- Major project application forms

Robin Smail

10.45 Coffee break

11.05 **Issues for ex ante project appraisal techniques, major projects, revenue-generating projects (contd.)**

- Calculating the grant for revenue-generating projects
- Exercise with grant calculation

11.45 **Conducting thematic evaluations in 2014-2020: evaluation plans, preparing for studies, managing studies, using the results**

- Project evaluation plans, preparing for studies
- The Call for Proposal
- Managing evaluations, stages of evaluations
- Issues for evaluations, using the results

Dr Iain Jenkins

13.00 Lunch

14.15 **Exercise with ex ante project appraisal**

Robin Smail, Dr Iain Jenkins

15.00 **Ex ante programme evaluation; evaluation questions**

- Evaluation tests 2014-2020
- Evaluation questions
- Measuring impact

Robin Smail, Dr Iain Jenkins

15.45 **Discussion and feedback; Seminar conclusion**

16.00 **Close of seminar**



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BEFEKTETÉS A JÖVŐBE

Introduction

Simplification of European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020

What is this course about?

The seminar will look at how to deliver better results and make greater use of simplification in the programming period 2014-2020 of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI). The new Omnibus Regulation will have passed at the Council/EP and will open more possibilities for simplification that needs to be explained in Hungary. There will be sessions on the key elements of simplification in particular on the implementation of SCOs (Simplified Cost Options) to speed up absorption and achieve better results through lump sums, different possibilities of flat rates, including indirect costs and standard unit costs, as well as the possible use of art 14.1 of ESF and Joint Action Plans. Furthermore, the seminar will cover best practices in different Member States (Italy, Belgium, UK and Greece) and from the EC Thematic network on simplification in setting up less complex management structures, in simplifying procedures (wider use of public procurement, global grants, vouchers), in developing synergies between EU funds such as Horizon 2020 through the Seal of Excellence. It will also include practical workshops to apply the simplification options.

How will it help you?

By the end of the seminar, participants should have a clear understanding:

- how to make best use of simplification options in ESI funds
- how to implement the flat-rates, unit costs and lumpsums
- how to create synergies with other EU funds.



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Programme

Simplification of European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020

THURSDAY 13 JULY 2017

- 08.45 **Registration**
- 09.00 **Introduction to the seminar and assessment of participants' experience**
- 09.15 **Introduction to simplification of ESI funds in 2014-2020**
- Simplification agenda in ESI funds
 - Simplified cost options in 2007-13 and 2014-2020
 - Real costs versus flat-rate financing, standard scales of unit costs and lump sums
 - Changes with the Omnibus regulation
- Marco Lopriore*, Expert, European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA), Maastricht (NL)
- 10.45 Coffee break
- 11.00 **Simplification in Hungarian Programme and Projects – Issues and Discussion**
- Luca Santin*, Expert, Transnational Thematic Network on Simplification of the European Commission, Brussels (BE)
- 12.45 Lunch break
- 14.00 **Exercises on current SCO options**
- Calculating grants for flat-rates using different articles of the CPR regulations
- Marco Lopriore*
- 15.30 Coffee break
- 15.45 **The design and implementation of simplified cost options: a case study**
- The decision to adopt SCO
 - Definition of SCO systems and main steps in the process
 - Calculation methodologies
 - Implementation of the system
 - Results
- Luca Santin*
- 17.30 End of day 1



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FRIDAY 14 JULY 2017

09.00 **Simplification across Europe: state of play and lesson learned**

Luca Santin

10.30 Coffee break

10.45 **Horizon 2020 and ESI funds: maximizing synergies**

- Rules on combining ESI and other EU funds
- case studies of synergies ERDF and ESF
- case studies of Seal of Excellence and combination with Horizon 2020

Marco Lopriore

12.00 **Exercise with standard scale and result orientation**

Marco Lopriore

12.30 Lunch break

13.45 **Advanced options of simplification**

- Article 14.1 ESF rules and case studies
- Unit costs at EU level

Luca Santini

14.15 Coffee break

14.30 **The audit approach in simplification**

- How to audit SCO
- Irregularities in SCO

Marco Lopriore

15.30 **Exercises with specific issues in Omnibus**

- using the new 1720 hours
- compatibility to GBER rules

Marco Lopriore

16.30 **End of sem**



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