

ESi Funded Agriculture Programmes and Projects

Intensive Seminar | 13 – 14 June 2019 | Rome (Italy)

Experts

Gereon Thiele

Head of Unit State Aid, Directorate Legal, Institutional and Procedural Matters, DG AGRI, European Commission, Brussels

Olga Guza (invited)

Deputy Director of EU Funds Audit Department, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Latvia

Mari Kirss (invited)

Advisor, Rural Affairs Policy and Analysis Department, Ministry of Rural Affairs, Estonia

Veronika Madner (invited)

Managing Authority, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Austria

Miklos Maacz (invited)

Deputy Head of Department for Rural Development under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Hungary

The workshop covers all topics that you need if you are working on ESI funded agriculture programmes and projects.

It will give you a comprehensive overview on the legal basics and best practice in the agricultural sector in 2014-2020 and beyond.

- Legal Framework of Rules in the Agriculture Sector in 2014-2020 and Beyond
- Verifications of ESI Funded Agriculture Programmes and Projects
- Simplified Cost Options for Agriculture Programmes and Projects
- Audit and Control of ESI Funded Agriculture Programmes and Projects
- Financial Instruments for Agriculture Projects in the 2014-2020 Programming Period and Beyond
- Errors and Irregularities in Agriculture Funds
- Fraud and Corruption in Agriculture Funds
- State Aid Law and How It Applies to Agriculture Programmes
- Public Procurement Rules for the Agriculture Programmes and Projects
- Practical Example of applying the European Agricultural Funds for Rural Development (EAFRD) in Hungary

General Information

Overview

How to successfully manage verifications and use simplified cost options in agricultural programmes. What are the legal requirements for second level control. How to make best use of Financial Instruments and how to treat errors and irregularities in agriculture funds.

Our experts will give you a comprehensive overview on the legal framework of rules in the agriculture sector in the programming period 2014-2020 and beyond and will also focus on verifications, audit and control of projects.

In addition a special focus will be laid on the financial instruments implemented in the rural development programmes as well as on ensuring compliance with State aid law.

The speakers will also give examples on considerations of public procurement rules for the agriculture programmes and projects.

Methodology

The participants will be actively involved in the workshop. The sessions will combine presentations and discussion on practical problems. You will have ample opportunities to present your own problematic issues and discuss them with the speakers and participants from other Member States.

Just send to us your cases and questions in advance! We will forward them to our speakers, who will include your issues in the programme and answer them during the training. All information concerning such problems and cases will be treated confidentially.

Benefits

- Learn how to successfully handle ESI funded agriculture programmes and projects in the programming period 2014-2020 and beyond.
- Have a clear understanding of EU regulations apply.
- Benefit from another Member State's experience and learn good practices.
- Have a platform to exchange ideas and challenges within their organisation and receive practical advice on current cases.

Target Group

- Officials from Ministries involved in funding and co-financing and marketing of agricultural and forestry projects and products, such as:
 - Ministry of Agriculture
 - Ministry of Rural Development
 - Ministry of Forestry
 - Ministry of Regional Development
- Officials from National State Aid Monitoring Offices
- Experts working with the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) as well as with other EU Funds and programmes supporting rural development
- Experts from public and private banks providing loans and guarantees for agricultural and rural development projects
- Experts from farmers' associations and other agricultural organizations



Programme Day 1, 13 June 2019

08:30 Registration & Welcome Coffee

09:00 Welcome by Lexxion & Introduction Round

09:30 **Legal Framework of Rules in the Agriculture Sector in 2014-2020 and Beyond**

- Legal requirements of the current programming period
- What will change in 2021-2027

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 **Verifications of ESI Funded Agriculture Programmes and Projects**

- Guidance on management verifications
- Administrative and on-the-spot verifications
- How to improve the verification strategies for administrative & on-the-spot verifications
- Verification of eligibility of expenditure
- Verification of simplified cost options
- Practical examples on successful management verifications

12:00 **Simplified Cost Options for Agriculture Programmes and Projects**

- Why and how to use simplified cost options
- Calculation methods for simplified cost options
- Setting up simplified cost models for agriculture projects
- Best practice and recommendations for a successful use of simplified cost models in agricultural programmes

13:00 Lunch Break

14:00 **Audit and Control of ESI Funded Agriculture Programmes and Projects**

- Legal requirements for second level control
- Implementation of Chapter on good practices promoted by audit community (EC and national AAs) when carrying out audits under agriculture funds
- Audit findings and recommendations in system audits
- Audit findings and recommendations in audits on operations/projects

15:30 Coffee Break

16:00 **Financial Instruments for Agriculture Projects in the 2014-2020 Programming Period and Beyond**

- Legislative framework for Financial Instruments 2014-2020
- How to make best use of Financial Instruments within agriculture funds
- What to take into account when designing a FI
- Choosing the right instrument for the right measure
- Considerations for loans, guarantees, equity and quasi equity funds
- How to proceed with setting up Financial Instruments
- Preparing for EAFRD financial instruments: lessons learned
- Financial instruments in the current programming period and future reflections

17:30 End of Day 1



Programme Day 2, 14 June 2019

09:00 **Errors and Irregularities in Agriculture Funds**

- Most common irregularities in agriculture funds
- Typical procurement errors and irregularities
- When do irregularities lead to recoveries, withdrawals and financial corrections
- Treatment of irregularities
- Purpose and types of financial corrections

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 **Fraud and Corruption in Agriculture Funds**

- Conducting fraud risk assessment and risk analysis
- Prevention of fraud and corruption

12:30 Lunch Break

13:30 **State Aid Law and How It Applies to Agriculture Programmes**

- How State aid rules make interplay with agriculture funds
- Application of State aid rules and procedures (Agricultural Block Exemption Regulation (ABER), Guidelines, etc.; notification vs exemption from notification)
- Experiences and problems with compliance with State aid rules

Gereon Thiele

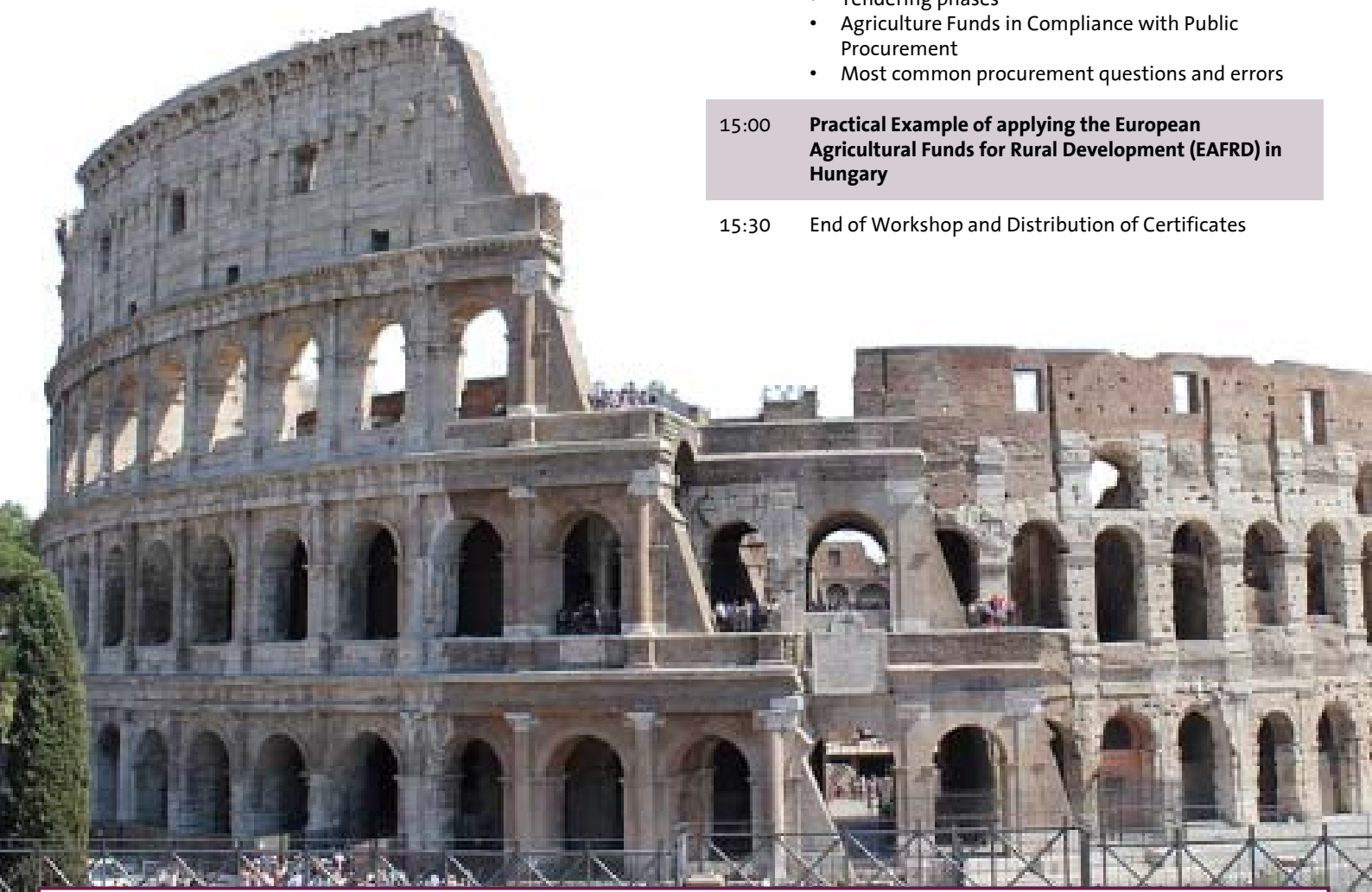
Head of Unit State Aid, Directorate Legal, Institutional and Procedural Matters, DG AGRI, European Commission, Brussels

14:15 **Public Procurement Rules for the Agriculture Programmes and Projects**

- The European Procurement Legal Framework
- Applying Procurement rules in agriculture sector
- Responsibilities of programme bodies with regard to public procurement
- Public procurement proceedings
- Tendering phases
- Agriculture Funds in Compliance with Public Procurement
- Most common procurement questions and errors

15:00 **Practical Example of applying the European Agricultural Funds for Rural Development (EAFRD) in Hungary**

15:30 End of Workshop and Distribution of Certificates



- **ESI Funded Agriculture Programmes and Projects**
- **Intensive Seminar | 13 – 14 June 2019 | Rome (Italy)**

Registration

Venue

Empire Palace Hotel
Via Aureliana,39
Empire Roma
Tel +39 06 421281
gold@empirepalacehotel.com
www.empirepalacehotel.com

Participation fee

- YES, I would like to participate for the reduced fee for public authorities **EUR 1.240,00** (excl. VAT).
- YES, I would like to participate for the regular fee of **EUR 1.640,00** (excl. VAT).

22% Italian VAT will be added where applicable.

The participation fees include the workshop material, drinks and snacks during the breaks and lunch.

Newsletter subscription

- Please send me information about Structural and Investment Funds issues for free. I may unsubscribe from this service any time.

Cancellations

Cancellations should be made in writing per post or fax. Please note that the full fee will be charged for cancellations received after 30 May 2019. Nomination of a substitute remains possible. A cancellation arising by reason of too small a number of participants is effected no later than two weeks prior to the seminar. In this case the participation fee will be refunded. A requirement for reimbursement of travel and accommodation expenses as well as loss of working hours is not possible, unless such costs result from wantonly negligent or deliberate behaviour on the part of the organiser. For more detailed information, scope and conduct of contract as well as cancellation policy, please check the Terms & Conditions on our website.

Please register with:



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Company Name

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VAT Reg.-No.

Date, Signature

Upcoming Events

Intensive Summer Course: Financial Instruments – How to Use Financial Instruments Effectively **19 – 21 June 2019, Lake Como (near Milan), Italy**

Lexxion's three-day advanced Summer Course offers the perfect opportunity to meet and discuss the current challenges for set-up and implementation of financial instruments. In addition the attendees learn about loan, guarantee and equity instruments. Participate in in-depth presentations and exchange good practices.

Master Class: Financial Instruments incl. Site Visit **12 – 13 September 2019, Rome, Italy**

The two-day Masterclass incl. site visits takes place in the field of Financial Instruments in Rome. After half day theory, participants become acquainted with the Italian model of Financial Instruments implementation during site visits.

For more information on any of our events please visit: www.lexxion.eu