

**NEW**

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:  
*EStIF*

**3-Day Intensive Summer Course:  
Irregularities and Fraud in ESI Funds and Public Procurement**  
5 – 7 June 2019 | Lake Como, near Milan (Italy)

**Experts**



**Simon Hannah**

*ERDF Compliance and Quality Assurance Manager, East of England ERDF Growth Delivery Team, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Cambridge*



**Gina McIntyre**

*Chief Executive, Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), Belfast*



**Jo Kremers**

*Senior Audit Manager, Ministry of Finance, The Netherlands*

**Day 1: Errors, Irregularities and Financial Corrections in ESIF**

- Most common types of errors and irregularities in ESI Funds
- State aid as new source of irregularities?
- Simplified Cost Options and irregularities
- Management verifications
- Treatment of irregularities, reporting and financial corrections
- Case studies on how to detect and handle irregularities
- How to choose the right type of financial correction and how to calculate the rate of corrections
- Irregularities from the perspective of the Audit Authority

**Day 2: Irregularities and Fraud in ESIF and Public Procurement & Remedial Actions against Irregularities and Fraud in ESIF & PP**

- Most common procurement errors and irregularities
- Fraud risks in public procurement
- Typical errors and irregularities in Procurement Cycle
- Remedial actions for ESIF managers

**Day 3: Preventing, Detecting and Combating Fraud and Corruption in ESI Funds**

- The Anti-fraud Cycle
- Conducting fraud risk assessment and risk analysis
- How to deepen your awareness and knowledge of risks of fraud and corruption
- How to improve skills in successful prevention and detection
- How to design a fraud prevention strategy for your institution
- How to select operations for fraud risk analysis, and how to define effective and proportionate measures

Please contact: Ms Anya Zuschke



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# ● 3-Day Intensive Summer Course: ● Irregularities and Fraud in ESI Funds and Public Procurement

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## General Information

### Overview

The correct handling of irregularities and fraud within ESI Funds is still a very difficult issue for all involved bodies. The number of irregularities and fraud cases reported to the European Commission, especially in the area of public procurement, remains high. Therefore member states need to continue their efforts to minimize the rate of irregularities and top prevent and combat fraud on project and programme level. As a consequence, this topic remains high on agenda for national authorities managing ESI Funds.

Managing authorities and Intermediate Bodies have to put in place effective and proportional risk management measures. Certifying Authorities are obliged to certify completeness, accuracy and veracity of accounts and that expenditure entered in accounts complies with applicable law. Audit authorities have to ensure that internationally accepted audit standards are applied, and have to conduct annual control report and annual opinion. Presenting findings and corrective measures.

Irregularities and fraud on project or programme level can bring to withdrawals, repayments and financial corrections. If lead partner does not succeed in securing repayment of any amount unduly paid as result of an irregularity or fraud, the member state on whose territory the beneficiary causing the error is located is obliged to reimburse the amount. Therefore it is crucial for national authorities to implement all measures, aimed to prevent, detect and combat irregularities and fraud at any stage of management of ESI Funds.

### Participants receive extensive materials

- All presentations shown during the summer course (including online access to all presentations after the summer course)
- Confirmations of participation
- Selection of corresponding journals published by Lexxion

### Target Group

- Representatives from public authorities in charge of management and control of ESI Funds, especially from
  - Managing Authorities
  - Certifying Authorities
  - Audit Authorities
  - Intermediate Bodies
- ESI Funds experts from regional and local authorities and experts involved in ETC Programme
- Auditors controlling and auditing ESI Funds programmes and projects
- Experts from EU, National and regional Court of Audit
- Experts from Institutions involved in implementation of ESIF
- Consultants and lawyers specialized on ESI Funds
- Beneficiaries of EU funded projects

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## Day 1: Wednesday, 5 June 2019

08:15 Registration and Welcome Coffee

08:30 Welcome Note by Lexxion and Chair, Introduction Round

Chair: **Simon Hannah**

*ERDF Compliance and Quality Assurance Manager, East of England ERDF Growth Delivery Team, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Cambridge*

09:00 **Most Common Irregularities in ESI Funds**  
(including 30 minutes Coffee Break)

- Definition of an irregularity
- Difference between error, irregularity and fraud
- Overview on most common types of irregularities
- State aid as new source of irregularities?
- Simplified cost options and irregularities
- Role of programme bodies with regard to irregularities
- How to avoid irregularities?

**Simon Hannah**

*ERDF Compliance and Quality Assurance Manager, East of England ERDF Growth Delivery Team, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Cambridge*

11:30 **Management Verifications – Measure to find Errors before they Become Irregularities**

**Simon Hannah**

*ERDF Compliance and Quality Assurance Manager, East of England ERDF Growth Delivery Team, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Cambridge*

12:30 Lunch Break

13:30 **Treatment of Irregularities, Reporting and Financial Corrections: New Requirements of the Current Programming Period**

- Criteria indicative of fault or negligence by MS
- When do irregularities lead to recoveries, withdrawals, and financial corrections?
- Purpose and types of financial corrections
- Pre- and post-payments
- What accounting records have to be kept?
- How to treat financial corrections in annual accounts
- New rules on treatment and reporting of irrecoverable amounts
- Recoveries and withdrawal workflow

**Gina McIntyre**

*Chief Executive, Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), Belfast*

14:30 **Case Study: How to Detect and Handle Irregularities**

Participants will apply theoretical knowledge to real-life cases in small working groups

**Gina McIntyre**

*Chief Executive, Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), Belfast*

15:00 Coffee Break

15:30 **Working Group Exercise: How to Choose the Right Type of Financial Correction and How to Calculate the Rate of Corrections**

- Identification of errors and ineligible expenditure
- How to calculate a correction
- Financial correction regarding the performance framework and system deficiencies

Participants will work in groups on a life-based case study on how to conduct financial corrections.

**Gina McIntyre**

*Chief Executive, Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), Belfast*

16:00 End of Day 1

**18:00 Boat tour and Common Dinner with all Speakers and Participants**

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## Day 2: Thursday, 6 June 2019

### 09:00 Common Procurement Errors in ESI Funds

- The EU Public Procurement Regime
- Requirements for ESIF Programmes
- Regulatory requirements and the application of public procurement to ESIF Programmes
- Types of breaches and irregularities
- Key areas of risk: In which areas irregularities occur and why?

#### Simon Hannah

*ERDF Compliance and Quality Assurance Manager, East of England ERDF Growth Delivery Team, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Cambridge*

10:00 Coffee Break

### 10:30 Case Study: Typical Irregularities and Fraud in Procurement Cycle

- Pre-tendering phase
- Tendering phase
- Post-award/contracting phase

#### Simon Hannah

*ERDF Compliance and Quality Assurance Manager, East of England ERDF Growth Delivery Team, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Cambridge*

### 11:30 Remedial Actions against Irregularities and Fraud in ESI Funds and Public Procurement

#### Simon Hannah

*ERDF Compliance and Quality Assurance Manager, East of England ERDF Growth Delivery Team, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Cambridge*

13:00 Lunch Break

### 14:00 Group Work: Practical Exercises on Remedial Actions against Irregularities and Fraud in ESI Funds and Public Procurement

#### Simon Hannah

*ERDF Compliance and Quality Assurance Manager, East of England ERDF Growth Delivery Team, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Cambridge*

14:45 Coffee Break

### 15:15 Irregularities from the Perspective of the Audit Authority

- Audit findings in system audit
- Audit findings in audit on operations, projects and payment claims
- Audit findings in audit of accounts
- Presenting findings and corrective measures in the Annual control report and annual opinion

#### Jo Kremers

*Senior Audit Manager, Ministry of Finance, The Hague, The Netherlands*

16:45 End of Day 2

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# ● 3-Day Intensive Summer Course: ● Irregularities and Fraud in ESI Funds and Public Procurement

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## Day 3: Friday, 7 June 2019

08:00 **Preventing, Detecting and Combating Fraud and Corruption in ESI Funds – Interactive Serious Game with Practical Cases, Exercises and Group Work**

(including Coffee- and Lunch Breaks)

### Fraud and Corruption

- An „Alert on Fraud and Corruption“ (BP)
- Identifying risks
- Risk areas (public procurement, HR, tax)

### Conducting Fraud Risk Assessment and Risk Analysis

- Threats inside and outside the organization
- Identifying risks
- Risks of corruption, bribery, manipulation, non-integrity
- How to control those risks?
- Analysing the risks – identifying the risk cases
- Which methods and procedures can be implemented for prevention?
- How to apply risk rating in the control activities?
- How to design, implement and incorporate a culture of integrity effective anti-fraud policies, deterrence techniques and vigilance systems
- IT tool (ARACHNE)

### The Anti-fraud Cycle: Implementing Effective and Proportionate Anti-fraud Measures

- Preventive, detective, corrective ones
- The most important fraud symbols
- How to make use of them to recognize cases of fraud and corruption

### Prevention of Fraud & Corruption

The most important instruments, methods, standards, (new) techniques and sources: What are red flags and signals for fraud? Which methods and procedures can be implemented for detection and correction? Fraud hotlines and helpdesks: critical success factors, financing of hotlines, successful cases.

#### Jo Kremers

Senior Audit Manager, Ministry of Finance,  
The Hague, The Netherlands

14:15 **Group Work Exercises:  
How to Design a Fraud Prevention Strategy for your Institution? – Checklist and Guidance**

Based on the information coming out of the serious game, participants would have the opportunity to set up tailor made documents for their own institutions, such as an anti fraud policy, independency statements and a code of conduct; and by these fill in parts of the anti-fraud cycle.

#### Jo Kremers

Senior Audit Manager, Ministry of Finance, The Hague, The Netherlands

15:30 **Best Practice**

How to conduct a (fraud) risk analysis regarding selection of operations, and how to define effective and proportionate measures based on the outcome of that risk analysis.

#### Jo Kremers

Senior Audit Manager, Ministry of Finance, The Hague, The Netherlands

16:30 End of Summer Course & Distribution of Certificates

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## Experts

### **Simon Hannah**

*ERDF Compliance and Quality Assurance Manager, East of England ERDF Growth Delivery Team, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Cambridge*

Simon Hannah is currently responsible for the financial management and programme compliance of the East of England's ERDF programme. Since 2007 his main responsibilities have been the development and operation of the East of England's management and control systems and processes covering contract management, grant payments, irregularity handling, and project monitoring and verification functions. He has over 8 years experience in ERDF policy, programme development and delivery at both Managing Authority and Intermediate Body levels, and actively contributes to the English ERDF programmes national policies and in the establishment and review of national procedures and controls. Prior to the current round of programmes, since 2003 Mr Hannah was involved in the 2000-2006 programmes for the Government Office, conducting on-the-spot verifications and desk based checks on EU funded projects, identifying and coordinating irregularity management information and reports.

### **Gina McIntyre**

*Chief Executive, Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), Belfast*

Gina is Chief Executive and Accounting Officer of the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) a cross border body working to the Government of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Assembly. She is currently responsible for the development, financial management and compliance of the PEACE IV and INTERREG VA programmes, totalling in excess of €0.5 billion. The Peace programme represents a unique investment by the European Union in support of the peace process, and both Programmes support the development of a more sustainable and prosperous cross-border region, across Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland.

She has considerable experience with the development of systems and controls relating to procurement, grant payments and irregularity handling during her time as the Head of the Certifying Authority within the SEUPB and as the Financial Controller for those projects based in Northern Ireland involved with the Transnational and Inter-Regional Programmes (North West Europe, Northern Periphery and Arctic).

Having spent most of her career involved with EU support programmes Gina has gained extensive knowledge of the complex cross border development needs of the region and the appropriate European funding instruments available to meet them.

Gina is a qualified chartered accountant who trained and qualified with Coopers and Lybrand. Before joining the SEUPB as the Director of Corporate Services in 2003, she gained extensive knowledge of managing the distribution of cross-border PEACE funding during her work for Co-operation Ireland.

### **Jo Kremers**

*Senior Audit Manager, Ministry of Finance, The Hague, The Netherlands*

Jo Kremers works in the Audit Authority for EU Funds at the Ministry of Finance in the Netherlands. He is certified public auditor as well as certified IT auditor. For the past 30 years he has been working in the Dutch Tax and Customs Administration as external auditor, fraud investigator and internal auditor. Furthermore, he has gained vast experience as project leader and expert in Information Security Audits and Integrity Audits. He is lecturer, trainer and speaker at national and international institutes. Working as an expert in many international, EU and World Bank funded projects, he has gained notable experience in strengthening the internal control and audit function in the public sector in several (candidate) EU Member States.



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## Registration

### Venue

#### Palace Hotel

Lungo Lario Trieste, 16  
Como, Italien  
Telefon +39 031 23391  
info@palacehotel.it

### Participation fee

- YES, I would like to participate for the reduced fee for public authorities **EUR 2.230,00** (excl. VAT).
- YES, I would like to participate for the regular fee of **EUR 2.630,00** (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 21 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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Name

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Position, Department

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Company Name

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Address

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Address

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Phone, Fax

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E-Mail

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VAT Reg.-No.

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Date, Signature

## Upcoming Events

### Interactive Forum on Management and Control of ESI Funds, including Anti-Fraud Game with Jo Kremers 3-5 April 2019 | Copenhagen

Most of ESI Funds experts are well aware of the applicable rules and requirements. The real challenge today is the practical implementation of running programmes and projects. Our Interactive Forum, combining theoretical knowledge and practical experience, will enable you to participate in numerous practical workshops, case studies and discussion rounds and exchange your experience on the most challenging management and financial control issues nowadays and in the Programming Period 2021-2027.

For more information on any of our events please visit: [www.lexxion.eu](http://www.lexxion.eu)