

Viktorija Šmatko-Abaza

Viktorija Šmatko-Abaza is a Director at the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the European Commission (DG EMPL). Her Directorate, in partnership with the nine EU Member States: ensures the efficient and effective programming and implementation of operational programmes financed from the European Social Fund (ESF); coordinates the ESF support to Member States' national policies in the field of employment, the social protection, and social inclusion; and provides operational financial control, coordination and reporting on the ESF activities and archives.

Ms Šmatko-Abaza graduated from the Vilnius University with a Master's degree in Economics in 1983. Since then, she has continued her professional education by participating in a number of conferences, seminars and training courses all over the world, sharing her progressively responsible experience in accounting, audit, budget, evaluation, finance, investigation, information and related area. Her background also includes: strategic management planning and analysis, budgeting, personnel administration, training and organizational development, program and project management, facility management, procurement, technical and report writing, and public relations.

From 1983 to 1994, Ms Šmatko-Abaza held various professional and managerial positions at the Lithuanian state and private enterprises in the fields of Economics and Finance. From 1994 to 2009, she performed and managed audits and investigations, starting as Auditor in Coopers & Lybrand in 1994, continuing at the United Nations from 1995 to 2007, and joining the European Commission in 2007 as Director responsible: for audit, controls and evaluation of over the 75 billion Euros programme budget; for coordination the relationships with the control authorities (European Parliament, European Court of Auditors, etc); and for relations with the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), including inter alia, irregularities and fraud. In April 2009, Ms Šmatko-Abaza became Director C: ESF, Monitoring of Corresponding National Policies III at DG EMPL.

Viktorija Šmatko-Abaza is a member of the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans, the Institute of Internal Auditors, the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, and the Institute of Forensic Auditors. Viktorija Šmatko-Abaza is a Certified Fraud Examiner, Registered Forensic Auditor, and holds Certification in Retirement Plans.