

COMMON STATE AID ACTION PLAN 2018-2022

Strengthening Member States' Administrative Capacity for the Management of the ESIF in the Field of State Aid

1 INTRODUCTION

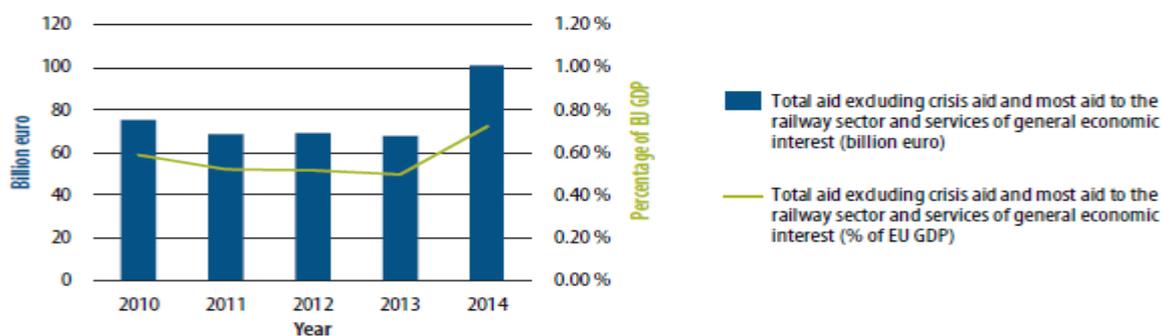
The current document sets out the joint DG REGIO – DG COMP State aid Action Plan for the period 2018-2022. The Action Plan aims at raising awareness and knowledge of State aid rules among various European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF) stakeholders.

The Action Plan builds on the experience gained from earlier measures undertaken by DG REGIO and DG COMP to strengthen the administrative capacity of managing authorities in the field of State aid.

EU State aid rules play an important role in ensuring a level-playing field for competition across the single market. They prevent distortions of competition that would lead to a loss of general welfare within the EU. State aid rules also contribute to economic cohesion in the EU. Restrictions on the granting of State aid limit subsidy races between Member States and offer a degree of protection to less developed Member States with a weaker fiscal capacity. Finally, general State aid principles such as the incentive effect and the proportionality requirements improve the quality of public expenditure under ESIF programmes.

Member States granted an average of EUR 76.6 billion State aid per year (0.5 % of GDP) in the 2010-2014 period (excluding crisis aid and most aid to the railway sector and services of general economic interest aid).

State aid in the EU, 2010 to 2014



EU State aid rules are an integral part of Union law and apply to the granting of any aid through State resources. Article 6 of the Common Provisions Regulation¹ recalls that obligation in the context of ESIF: ‘all operations supported by the ESIF shall comply with applicable Union law ...’.

It is the responsibility of the ESIF Managing Authorities and of Member States to ensure that ESIF operations are implemented in accordance with EU State aid rules. This means all projects need to be checked for the presence of State aid and those with State aid need to comply with the State aid rules.

¹ Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320–469.

2 COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AID RULES IS CONTROLLED ON A SAMPLE BASIS BY NATIONAL AND EU AUDIT AUTHORITIES. MAIN CHALLENGES

Ensuring compliance with EU State aid rules represents a significant challenge for ESIF operations, mainly for the following reasons:

2.1 The (perceived) complexity of EU State aid rules

The assessment whether a measure constitutes State aid and whether the aid is compatible with the EU rules can be complex. Each measure is different and needs to be assessed individually. State aid assessments require specialised legal and economic knowledge and their application to specific situations.

In spite of the Commission's efforts to simplify and streamline EU State aid rules in the context of the State aid Modernisation reform of 2014, a report by the European Court of Auditors (ECA) found that the majority of national audit authorities consider the EU's legal framework for State aid to be at least fairly complex. More than 35 % of them cited the volume of legislation as the biggest factor for the complexity. Another 35 % stated that they had difficulty in applying legislation in practice.

2.2 Changes in EU State aid legislation

The State aid Modernisation (SAM) process of 2013-2016 brought very significant changes to the EU State aid framework. One of the main features of SAM was the **extension of the scope of the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER)** in 2014 and 2017. This extension enables Member States to implement an increasing number of State aid measures without having to notify them for approval to the Commission. It is estimated that as a result of the extension of the GBER, more than 97% of newly implemented State aid measures in the EU are implemented under the GBER. The revised GBER has clarified and streamlined the conditions that aid measures should meet to benefit from the exemption. It also resulted in a significant reduction of the administrative burden imposed on aid granting authorities. At the same time, GBER has shifted responsibility for ensuring compliance with EU State aid rules to Member States. It is up to the Member States to assess and decide upon whether a certain aid measure falls under GBER. To make this assessment effectively and efficiently Member States and Managing Authorities in particular need to have adequate resources and know-how (administrative capacity).

A second change in the legislative environment resulted from the **Leipzig-Halle judgment** of the ECJ², which widened the scope of State aid to types of investment that were previously considered "state-aid free" (e.g. transport infrastructure). The courts held that the construction of infrastructure that is inextricably linked with its subsequent economic use constitutes an economic activity in itself therefore EU State aid rules apply to such projects. As a result of the Leipzig-Halle judgment, national and regional authorities have to comply with State aid rules in a number of important ESIF spending areas that had been regarded as falling outside the scope of State aid rules. In its 2016 Notice on the notion of State aid³, the Commission subsequently clarified the circumstances in which public support for infrastructure development could still be regarded as falling outside the scope of State aid rules.

2.3 Shift in the focus of cohesion policy

Cohesion policy for the 2014–2020 period focuses on boosting jobs, growth and investment. Consequently, substantial amounts of ESIF allocations are directly linked to economic activities (e.g. broadband, energy networks, and renewable energy). Support to economic activities/actors is likely to constitute State aid.

² Judgment of the General Court of 24 March 2011 (Joined cases T-443/08 and T-455/08) and Judgment of the Court of 19 December 2012 (Case C-288/11 P).

³ Commission Notice on the notion of State aid as referred to in Article 107(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. C/2016/2946, OJ C 262, 19.7.2016, p. 1–50.

For the post-2020 programming period, expectations are that ESIF resources will focus even more on measures aimed directly at promoting economic activities and stimulating the modernisation of businesses in the less developed regions (increased focus on measures to encourage innovation and job creation). The amount of ESIF support through financial instruments is also expected to increase. Financial instruments pose specific challenges with regard to State aid.

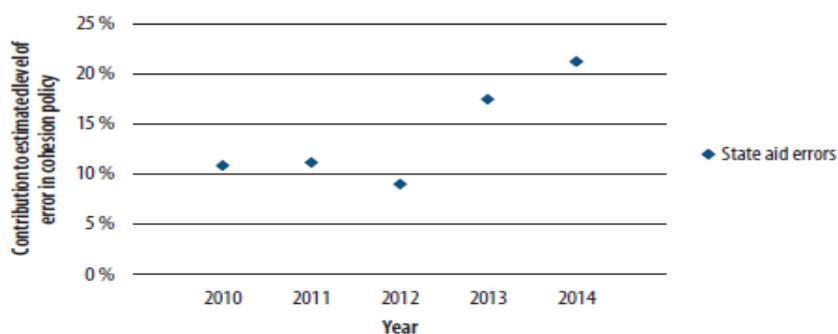
2.4 Persistent problems

In 2016, ECA published a comprehensive review of State aid rules in cohesion policy (Special Report No 24/2016⁴) which concluded that the level of State aid non-compliance remains significant.

According to the Special Report, for the 2010-2014 period **13.5 % of the estimated errors in cohesion policy was attributable to infringement of EU State aid rules**. 20.9 % of ERDF/CF projects with State aid relevance were affected by State aid-related errors. Audit authorities in the Member States detected infringements at a far lower rate than either the Commission or the EU auditors.

During the 2010-2014 period, both the number of projects with State aid relevance and the share of projects affected by State aid errors, increased.

Contribution of State aid errors to estimated level of error in cohesion policy, 2010-2014



Note: The contribution of State aid errors to the estimated level of error for cohesion policy depends on the gravity as well as the number of State aid errors.

Source: European Court of Auditors.

Based on its analysis ECA made several recommendations to the Commission to reduce non-compliance with State aid rules. One of the **ECA recommendations** concerns the administrative capacity of Member States:

‘the Commission should follow up every two years on Member States’ capacity to comply with State aid rules ... The Commission should use these exercises for monitoring purposes and to direct support activities such as providing training to the Member States where they are most needed.’⁵

The Action Plan takes up ECA’s recommendation to support Member States in the area of State aid.

Because of Member States’ efforts and the Commission’s support, the number of State aid errors has decreased in the last years. For the year 2015, ECA found that State aid represented only 6 % of the overall

⁴ European Court of Auditors, Special Report No 24/2016: More efforts needed to raise awareness of and enforce compliance with State aid rules in cohesion policy.

⁵ European Court of Auditors: Special Report No 24/2016, p. 10.

error rate.⁶ For the year 2016, ECA, for the first time, did not quantify any errors regarding State aid rules.⁷ This is a sign that the Commission's preventive and corrective actions in the field start bringing results.

2.5 Ex-ante conditionalities

The Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) for the period 2014-2020 introduced ex-ante conditionalities (ExAC) to ensure that the framework conditions are in place for the efficient and effective investments of the ESIF. One of the general ExAC requires the existence of arrangements for the effective application of EU State aid rules in the field of ESIF. The ExAC arrangement provided the Commission with a mandate to request improvements in the administrative capacity of Member States with persistent weaknesses in the State aid area. The **criteria** for the assessment of the ExAC on State aid are the following:

- 1) Arrangements for **the effective application** of EU State aid rules;
- 2) Arrangements for **training & dissemination** of information for staff;
- 3) Arrangements to strengthen the **administrative capacity** in MAs.

In 2014, five Member States (CZ, HR, IT, RO and SK) declared in their self-assessment that they did not fulfil the ExAC for State aid. They committed to an action plan to fulfil the ExAC. Some positive actions implemented under the action plans are shown in the table below.

Criterion 1	Criterion 2	Criterion 3
Set up of a central state aid electronic register connecting all granting authorities (HR)	Organisation of at least 2 training sessions per year (IT)	Strengthening of administrative capacity of the central state aid coordinator by 100–150 % (SK)
Ensure data transfer between ESIF central monitoring system and state aid central register (CZ)	Preparation of a training strategy in cascade, including number of staff trained per administrative unit (IT)	

By mid-2017 all Member States fulfilled ExAC for State aid.

3 PREVIOUS ACTIONS AND OUTPUT

In 2015 DG REGIO and DG COMP agreed a first common State aid Action Plan for 2015 and 2016 (“SAAP”) setting out a set of actions aimed raising awareness and knowledge of State aid rules among ESIF stakeholders (including staff of the ESIF DGs). In 2017, the two DGs agreed to extend and further strengthen the common SAAP for the period 2017-2018.

A complete overview of the actions foreseen in the 2015-2016 and the 2007-2018 common SAAPs along with the state of implementation of these actions is given in the table below.

Action	Description	State of play
High-level meetings between DG REGIO and DG COMP	Meeting of senior management of REGIO and COMP to exchange information, identify bottlenecks and explore common solutions with regard to State aid.	In 2015-2017, five meetings took place (30.6.2015, 4.4.2016, 20.10.2016, 5.5.2017 and 17.10.2017)
Study on identification and dissemination of best practices	The study aimed to identify organisational arrangements and tools existing in 6 MS to ensure compliance with SA rules in ESIF operations and to formulate recommendations stemming from case studies.	Study was completed in 2016.
Organisation of country specific SA seminars	For MS which did not fulfil the ExACs on SA (HR, RO, CZ, SK, IT) general SA training events were organised in 2015. At these events, COMP experts gave a practical introduction to SAM. At the request of the MS concerned thematic workshops were added (e.g. infrastructure, environmental	Country-specific seminars were organised in HR, RO, BG and CZ (jointly with SK). Each seminar had around 100 participants. All training material is available on the InfoRegio website. For IT, the Italian authorities developed a specific

⁶ European Court of Auditors, Annual reports concerning the financial year 2015, 2016/C 375/01.

⁷ European Court of Auditors: Annual Report on the Implementation of the Budget (2017/C 322/01), p. 174.

Action	Description	State of play
	aid, SME aid etc.). REGIO presented good practices of dealing with SA in the ESIF management and its main audit findings relating to SA. <i>Target group:</i> General practitioners (i.e. not necessarily "State aid experts") involved in the management and control of ESIF (e.g. MAs, beneficiaries, Audit Authorities). <i>Location:</i> Capitals of the respective MS	training programme, which was implemented in cooperation with DG COMP.
Thematic expert seminars	The objective of the thematic expert seminars is to disseminate State aid knowledge on specific topics/issues. Seminars were more interactive than the country specific seminars and involve discussion of concrete cases <i>Target group:</i> Specialists from all MS in certain sectors with ESIF background and State aid expertise. Set up and programme: more interactive, discussion on case studies. <i>Location:</i> Brussels.	In 2016-2017, six thematic seminars took place. The areas covered were: transport, regional and SME aid, energy and RDI. 75 to 100 participated in each seminar. All training material is publicly available on the InfoRegio website.
General SA training for ESIF practitioners	There was a demand need was felt to organise regular seminars providing an introductory training on State aid for national and regional officials involved in the implementation of ESIF operations. These seminars were organised by EIPA and offer a systematic introduction into basic SA principles. Topics of particular relevance, such as the GBER and the Regulation on De Minimis Aid, are presented in some detail. <i>Target group:</i> Practitioners involved in the management, implementation and control of ESIF. <i>Location:</i> Brussels (REGIO premises).	In 2016-2017, seven training sessions were held. On average 30 people participated in each training. All training materials, including podcasts, are publicly available on the InfoRegio website.
Peer 2 Peer exchanges	The P2P programme supports direct exchanges between stakeholders in different Member States on specific topics.	In 2017, seven P2P exchanges on State aid took place (see Annex for details).
Dissemination of new developments in SA policy among ESIF Stakeholders	The objective of this action is to raise awareness among ESIF stakeholders of new developments in State aid rules (e.g. revision of GBER, new version of the infrastructure analytical grids, guidance note on financial instruments, etc.) that are of relevance to ESIF practitioners. <i>Target group:</i> ESIF practitioners in all Member States and DG REGIO staff.	May 2017: Publication of summary information and links to the 2017 GBER on REGIO Flash. January 2018: Publication of summary info on the last batch of infrastructure assessment grids and a link to the grids in InfoRegio.
COMP support system for the clarification and interpretation of NOA and GBER provisions (e-WIKI)	Following the adoption of GBER and NOA, COMP set up an electronic platform for clarification and interpretation questions of Member States and other stakeholders regarding provisions of the GBER and of the NOA. Replies to these questions are made available to State aid experts of all Member States via e-WIKI. Access to this platform is granted by designated users in the MS. REGIO asked COMP to facilitate access to e-WIKI for MAs and other ESIF stakeholders. <i>Target group:</i> Designated users of the eState aid WIKI, ESIF practitioners and competent bodies in the Member States.	By the end of 2017, DG COMP published answers to some 1200 interpretation and clarification questions on e-Wiki.

The general training for ESIF practitioners and the thematic seminars have been well received by the participants. The general training offers a two-day intensive State aid training to non-specialists. The quality of the training material and the speakers were considered very favourably by participants. Participants specifically appreciated the opportunity to ask questions to DG COMP colleagues and to network with colleagues from other Member States. For the thematic seminars the expertise of DG COMP was even more crucial. The mix of presentations and workshops proved successful. Addressing questions submitted by participants beforehand was another popular feature of the seminar.

Overall, most participants formally (survey) or informally (conversations) expressed their satisfactions with both types of event. The results of the surveys have been largely positive but the response rate was rather low.

4 ACTION PLAN FOR 2018-2022

The Action Plan for 2018-2022 takes account previous experience and discussions between the Director Generals of REGIO and COMP. It updates the previous Action Plan and extends its scope, both in time and substance.

- The period covered by the Action Plan is extended to five years, from 2018 until 2022. This will enable the two DGs to build up State aid knowledge and expertise of local regional and national authorities involved in the preparation, implementation and control of ESIF operation not only for the current programming period, but also for the post 2020 period. It will also make it easier to take full account of State aid policy principles in the preparation of the post-2020 ESIF operations.
- The scope of the Action Plan is extended. Firstly, the actions will target a wider audience than in the past, e.g. special training for auditors. Secondly, the emphasis shifts from the more traditional one-directional “training” activities towards more interactive events offering more room for sharing experiences and exchanging good practices between participants.

The Units responsible for the coordination and implementation of the Action Plan will be Unit E1 in DG REGIO and Unit H1 in DG COMP. They will meet three to four times annually to discuss the state of play of the Action Plan. COMP Units A3 and O3 are associated if necessary⁸. REGIO E1 and COMP H1 will also prepare a short progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for discussion at the first bilateral of the DGs of DG REGIO and DG COMP each calendar year.

The Action Plan and progress reports will be published on the InfoRegio website.

4.1 Strategic training programme for ESIF stakeholders

The strategic training programme has been well received in the past and will continue in an extended form. It covers a wide range training needs: from general State aid trainings to non-specialist to targeted seminars for auditors and sector specialists.

JASPERS (Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions) offers complementary State aid seminars in Member States as well as advise during project preparation.

4.1.1 General State aid training of ESIF practitioners

Objective: The objective is to raise general awareness of ESIF practitioners regarding State aid issues linked to management and implementation of ESIF. Attending this training session should help the practitioners to deal with the increased responsibility of Member States in the field of State aid management as a consequence of extended use of the General Block Exemption Regulation. As a result, they should be able for example to detect presence of State aid e.g. in support schemes and design of calls for proposal accordingly. The session should also help them to guide beneficiaries through State aid issues.

Target group: Practitioners from all Member States involved in the management, implementation and control of ESIF. Each session will have a maximum of 35 participants. In case of oversubscription participants will be selected as to achieve a representative mix of Member States.

Frequency: Two training sessions annually.

Organisation: In the past, the training sessions were organised and delivered by the European Institute of Public Administration. Since the contract ended a call have to be published. DG COMP will participate in the

⁸ In particular where actions such as dissemination of best practice, State aid seminars or support on interpretation and implementation can be carried out within the ‘bilateral’ and ‘multilateral cooperation workstreams (A3) or if they concern ‘country coordination’ (O3) at large.

training sessions and will be available to answer questions of the participants. The trainings sessions will take place at the premises of DG REGIO.

4.1.2 Training of Member States auditors

Objective: The objective is to train auditors on State aid issues that are of particular importance to the control of ESIF.

Target group: Personnel of national audit authorities and auditors in DG REGIO.

Timing: One training session annually.

Organisation: The format of this training will be similar to the one organised for ESIF practitioners. A call has to be published and contractor selected.

4.1.3 Thematic expert seminars

Objective: The objective of the thematic expert seminars is to disseminate specialised State aid knowledge on particular topics/issues. The topics should be relevant for the implementation of ESIF and pose specific State aid questions.

Target group: Practitioners from all Member States involved in the management, implementation and control of ESIF in one of the selected topics. The groups shall not exceed 50 participants in order to allow for optimal interaction.

Frequency: Two thematic seminars annually (one seminar on RDI plus another to be decided on demand).

Organisation: The organisation of this action will be outsourced. The content is provided jointly by DG COMP and independent experts. All thematic seminars will take place in Brussels.

4.1.4 Training for REGIO and EMPL officers

Objective: The objective is to provide a general training on State aid issues (substance and procedures) to DG REGIO and DG EMPL staff. This could include introductory trainings as well as specific training on ex post monitoring for REGIO and EMPL auditors.

Target group: REGIO and EMPL programme officers and auditors.

Frequency: 1-2 trainings per year.

Organisation: Organised by DG COMP with the support of DG REGIO and DG EMPL.

4.2 Exchange of good practices

4.2.1 PEER 2 PEER exchanges

Objective: Continue using PEER 2 PEER exchanges for expert visits, study visits or small-scale workshops. The peer exchanges should not only help to diffuse knowledge on State aid rules and to promote good practices in specific areas but also to help Member States in searching for peer solutions to their concrete issues. Possibly, these exchanges could create a basis for a longer-term cooperation among participating institutions e.g. in a form of a "community of practitioners".

Frequency: Ongoing activity; based upon requests coming from member States.

Organisation: Within the framework of the TAIEX REGIO PEER 2 PEER tool.

4.2.2 Round tables for good practices

Objective: Expert level discussion of State aid issues with high relevance to ESIF. The objective is to exchange experience and best practices between authorities and experts involved in the implementation of ESIF operations. At the meeting, the participants will discuss the selected topic in depth and issue a note summarising the (common) position and recommendations of the experts.

Selected topics could be new developments (e.g. Commission decisions, judgment by European courts) or issues of practical relevance to all/most Member States (e.g. infrastructure projects, simplified cost option). The outcome of the round tables should provide good practice guidance within the existing State aid framework.

Target group: The panel will consist of recognised State aid experts from Member States and independent experts (from academia, law firms). A limited number (around 15) of interested parties from Member States will be invited to participate as audience.

Frequency: One pilot event in first half of 2018. If the format proves successful two round tables could be organised annually.

Organisation: The organisation will be done through Peer 2 Peer. The round tables will take place in Brussels.

4.2.3 Pool of thematic experts

Objective: Offer direct support to national bodies in designing and implementing State aid schemes or individual aid, if required by the national authorities. National bodies could ask for assistance when faced with State aid issues they are unfamiliar with. The emphasis should be on advising how to best achieve a given objective within the State aid framework.

Geographic units in DG REGIO have reported that municipalities and regional bodies often refrain from designing State aid schemes that involve more difficult State aid questions but rather opt for simple but potentially inefficient solution (e.g. *de minimis* aid). REGIO's State aid expert matrix also identified this problem and endorsed this action.

The pool of experts should not duplicate any existing structure. At this stage the action will be implemented through AMI-list experts. The choice of experts for each individual assignment, at the request of national authorities, would depend on expertise and availability.

The beneficiaries of the expert assignments will be made clear that the advice given cannot bind the Commission (DG COMP) in its own State aid assessment.

Target group: National bodies (especially municipalities and regional bodies) which lack sufficient experience in designing State aid schemes or individual aid measures.

Frequency: Ongoing activity; based upon requests coming from MSs.

Organisation: The AMI-list will be organised by DG REGIO.

4.3 Communication and coordination

Communication activities such as dissemination of relevant State aid information to ESIF stakeholders are a new priority for the 2018-2022 period.

4.3.1 Improved communication and coordination of key State aid issues

Objective: Raise awareness of key policy developments in State aid rules (e.g. adoption of the GBER review) and explore possibilities for cooperation and synergies between REGIO and COMP..

Disseminate practical guidance material on State aid issues (e.g. infrastructure analytical grids, guidance note on financial instruments) relevant for ESIF practitioners. Exchange information on ex post monitoring of DG COMP and audits of DG COMP.

At the beginning of 2018, a letter informing on and promoting the eState aid WIKI, the Peer 2Peer and pool of experts will be sent to Managing Authorities. The eState aid WIKI is an IT-tool by which DG COMP provides answers to abstract questions on the interpretation of the State aid rules from and the Member States. ESIF practitioner should be made aware of the tool. The competent bodies in the Member States should be encouraged to grant reading rights to ESIF practitioners.

Information on and link to the revised infrastructure assessment grids will also be communicated in January or early February.

Target group: ESIF practitioners in all Member States and DG REGIO staff.

Frequency: Continuous activity.

Organisation: DG COMP (CPI unit) prepares information material about relevant new policy developments and will send this to DG REGIO. DG REGIO will disseminate such information through InfoRegio, REGIO Flash and EGESIF.

4.3.2 Meeting of senior management of DG REGIO and DG COMP

Objective: DG REGIO will collect specific State aid problems faced by Managing Authorities and other ESIF bodies, if any, and inform DG COMP thereof in advance of the meetings. DG COMP will respond, inform on significant State aid decisions and Court rulings which are relevant to ESIF. In case a Member State has a weakness in designing State aid schemes and/or complying with State aid rules the senior management will identify and evaluate options to remedy the problem. Further, the meeting will be used to take stock of the implementation of this Action Plan.

Target group: Director-Generals, Deputy Director-Generals and Directors of DG REGIO and DG COMP.

Frequency: Two meetings per year between Director-Generals or Deputy Director-Generals.

Organisation: Organised jointly by DG REGIO and DG COMP.

ANNEX

Overview of PEER 2 PEER exchanges

Title of exchange	Type of events	Beneficiary	Provider of expertise	Date
State Aid Rules in the Transport Sector	Expert mission	HR: Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure	SI: Ministry of Finance	Jun-15
State Aid Monitoring, Control and Assessment	Study visit	BG: Ministry of Finance	LV: State Aid Control Department	Jan-16
State Aid Auditing	Expert mission	LV: Audit Authority - Ministry of Finance	DE, PL: Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of the State of Brandenburg (DE); Polish Information and Foreign Investment Agency (PL)	Mar-16
State Aid Rules in the Implementation of ESIF	Study visit	CZ: Ministry of Regional Development	EE: Ministry of Finance	Mar-16
State Aid for Universities and Research Organisations	Study visit	LT: Ministry of Education and Science	ES: Agencia de Innovación y Desarrollo de Andalucía, Seville	Jul-16
State Aid control in ERDF infrastructure	Study visit	LT: Central Project Management Agency	EL: Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism	Jan-17
State Aid and ESIF Implementation	Workshop	ES: Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness	IT, PT, ES: Piemonte region (IT), National Portuguese Agency of Innovation (PT), Andalusian Agency of Innovation (ES)	Feb-17
Auditing Compliance with State Aid Requirements under ESI Funds	Expert Mission	LT: National Audit Office (Audit Authority)	UK: Government Legal Department	Apr-17
Creation of a State Aid Scheme for Health Care Institutions under the SGEI Framework	Expert mission	LT: Competition Council, Ministry of Health	HU: Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU	Jul-17
Creation of a State Aid Scheme for Health Care Institutions under the SGEI Framework	Expert mission	LT: Competition Council and Ministry of Health	HU: Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU	Oct-17
State aid for audit authorities	Expert mission	IE: Audit Authority	UK: Government Legal Department	Oct-17
State Aid Map on Transport Sector	Workshop	BG: Ministry of Transport Information Technology and Communications	ES, HU, FR, DE, RO, PL, SI : Regional Development Agency of Andalusia, Perm. Rep. of Hungary to the EU, Representation of New Aquitaine to the EU, German Aerospace Center, Deutsche Bahn, Perm. Rep. of Romania to the EU, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Finance	Nov-17

Schedule for proposed actions

	2017				2018-2022*			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Strategic training programme								
Training of ESIF practitioners	2	1	1	1	2			
Training of auditors					1			
Thematic expert seminars			1	1	2			
Training of DG REGIO colleagues					2			
Exchange of good practices								
PEER 2 PEER exchanges	7				demand driven			
Round tables for good practices					1			
Pool of thematic experts		1 assignment			demand driven			
Communication								
High-level meetings	1			1	2			
External communication					Letter to MAs	occasionally		

* The schedule for the 2018-2022 is indicative.