

# COMMON STATE AID ACTION PLAN 2023-2027

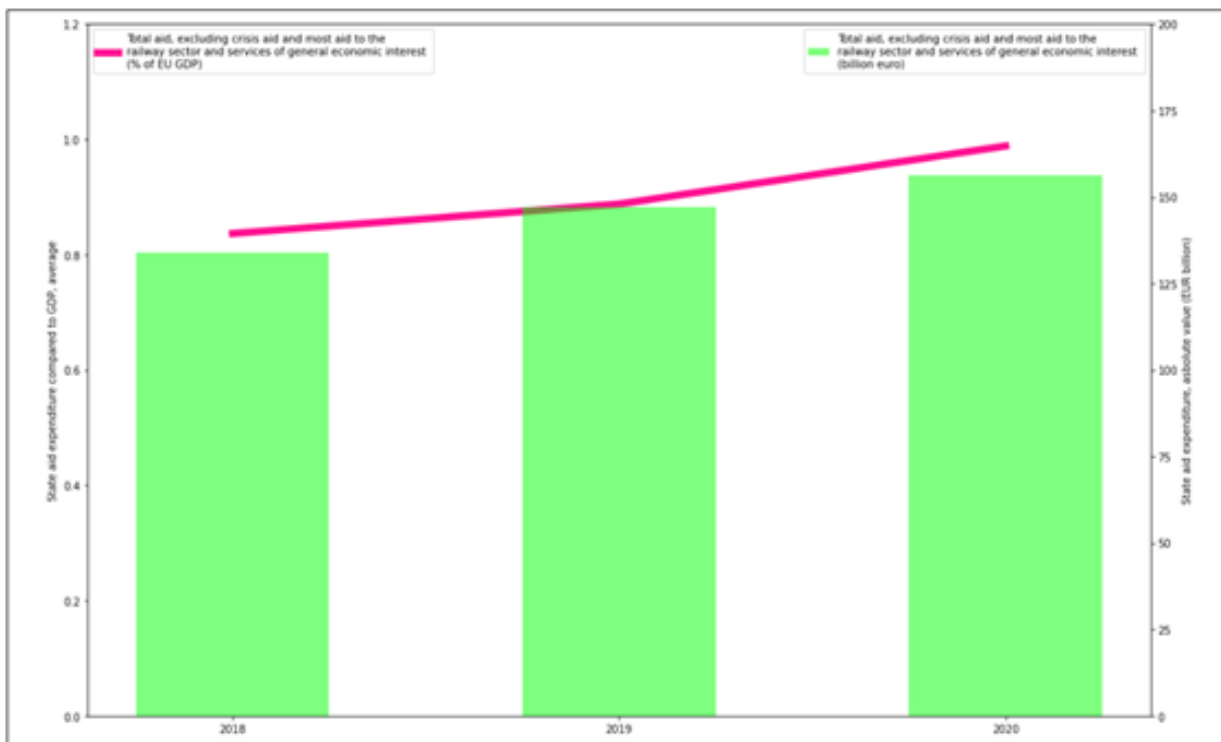
## ***Strengthening Member States' Administrative Capacity for the Management of the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund and the JTF in the Field of State Aid***

### 1 INTRODUCTION

The current document builds on the State aid action plan 2018-2022 and sets out the joint DG REGIO – DG COMP actions in the area of State aid for the period 2023-2027. The main goal of the Action plan is to further strengthen knowledge of State aid rules among various stakeholders involved in the management of the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund and the JTF. Strengthening their administrative capacity in the field of State aid will enable correct application of the State aid rules when selecting operations and designing support measures at the national or regional level.

EU State aid rules play an important role in ensuring a level-playing field for competition across the single market. Since Member States can give advantages to certain undertakings or the production of certain goods, State Aid rules prevent distortions of competition that would lead to a loss of general welfare within the EU. In this regard, by enforcing strong State aid rules, we foster economic cohesion within the EU. Even in exceptional situations following crises, such as the Covid-19 pandemic or the Russian invasion of Ukraine, a proper balance has to be found between supporting heavily affected undertakings and economies, and limiting any subsidy races between Member States, thereby offering a degree of protection to less developed Member States with a lesser fiscal capacity. In addition, general State aid principles, such as the incentive effect and the proportionality requirements, improve the quality of public expenditure under the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund and the JTF.

Member States granted an average of EUR 145 billion in State aid per year (0.9 % of GDP of EU 27+UK) in the 2018-2020 period (excluding crisis aid and most aid to the railway sector and services of general economic interest aid). This represents a strong increase from the previous period. Furthermore, due to the Covid -19 crisis, there was an average of EUR 227.97 billion in State aid granted in 2020 to fight the economic effects of Covid-19.



State aid is an objective notion under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Where State support fulfils the criteria of Article 107(1) TFEU, State aid rules apply. EU State aid rules, therefore, are an integral part of Union law. The Common Provisions Regulation<sup>1</sup> provides that, since Member States have the primary responsibility for management and control of programmes, they must ensure that operations supported by the Funds comply with applicable law<sup>2</sup>. It is crucial, therefore, that Member States comply with EU State aid rules, since they are cornerstone in the Treaty, and exist to preserve fair competition in the internal market.

Thus, it is the responsibility of Member States to ensure that above-mentioned programme management and control 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.

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

Compliance with EU State aid rules can represent a challenge for the Managing Authorities in the implementation of the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund and the JTF operations. State aid continues to be one of the main types of error related to the implementation of Cohesion policies. Therefore, awareness and correct application of State aid rules remains an important element in managing the funds. In general, the following reasons are identified as the reasons why State aid enforcement in Cohesion policy could be problematic.

### 2.1 The (perceived) complexity of EU State aid rules

The assessment of whether a measure constitutes State aid, and whether the aid is compatible with the EU rules, can be complex. This is even more so as it is for the Member States to assess the measure, and to verify whether a notification to the Commission is needed. Each measure is different and needs to be assessed individually. State aid assessments, therefore, require specialised legal and economic knowledge, which must be applied to each specific situation.

### 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, such as the **extension of the scope of the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER)** in 2014 and 2017. The GBER enables Member States to implement a wide number of State aid measures without having to notify them for approval to the Commission. It is up to the Member States to assess and decide whether a certain aid measure falls under the 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). Further amendments of the GBER were introduced on 21 July 2021, to accompany the new Multiannual Financial Framework and to facilitate certain recovery-related aid

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy

<sup>2</sup> For the purpose of this Regulation, 'applicable law' means Union law and the national law relating to its application

measures<sup>3</sup>, and on 23 June 2023, to further facilitate, simplify, and speed up support for the EU's green and digital transitions<sup>4</sup>.

Since the **Leipzig-Halle judgment** of the CJEU<sup>5</sup>, which clarified the scope of State aid to types of investment that were previously considered "State-aid free" (e.g. transport infrastructure), national and regional authorities must comply with State aid rules in a number of important infrastructure related spending areas of ERDF, ESF+, Cohesion Fund and JTF. In its 2016 Notice on the notion of State aid<sup>6</sup>, 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. However the assessment of the presence of State aid elements in a measure remains the responsibility of Member States and managing authorities.

Furthermore, in the past 5 years, many new developments in the State Aid legal framework have created new pieces of legislation such as the State Aid Temporary Framework, adopted on 19 March 2020, to enable Member States to use the full flexibility foreseen under State aid rules to support the economy in the context of the coronavirus outbreak. With some exceptions, this Temporary Framework expired on 30 June 2022. More recently, the State aid Temporary Crisis Framework, adopted on 23 March 2022, enables Member States to use the flexibility foreseen under State aid rules to support the economy in the context of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The Temporary Crisis Framework was amended on 20 July 2022, and 28 October 2022, to complement the Winter Preparedness Package, and in line with the REPowerEU Plan objectives. It covered, amongst other things, aid to compensate for high energy prices, measures accelerating the rollout of renewable energy, and measures facilitating the decarbonisation of industrial processes. The Temporary Crisis Framework was amended and prolonged, in part, by the Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework, adopted on 9 March 2023, to foster support measures in sectors which are key for the transition to the net-zero economy, in line with the Green Deal Industrial Plan.

In addition, several pieces of EU legislation have been revised (such as Regional aid guidelines<sup>7</sup>, Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation<sup>8</sup>, Guidelines on State aid for climate, environmental protection and energy<sup>9</sup>).

### 2.3 Priorities of the 2021-2027 programming period

For the 2021-2027 period, the ERDF, the ESF+, and the Cohesion Fund shall support the following policy objectives: (i) a more competitive and smarter Europe, (ii) a greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe, (iii) a more connected Europe, (iv) a more social and inclusive Europe, and (v) a Europe closer to citizens. Furthermore, the JTF will enable regions and people to address the social, employment, economic and environmental impacts of the transition towards the Union's 2030

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<sup>3</sup> Commission Regulation (EU) 2021/1237 of 23 July 2021 amending Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty, OJ L 270, 29.7.2021, p. 39–75

<sup>4</sup> Commission Regulation [TO BE INSERTED] of 23 June 2023 amending Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty and Regulation (EU) 2022/2473 declaring certain categories of aid to undertakings active in the production, processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty [OJ REFERENCE TO BE INSERTED]

<sup>5</sup> 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).

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> Communication from the Commission Guidelines on regional State aid 2021/C 153/01, OJ C 153, 29.4.2021, p. 1–46,

<sup>8</sup> Communication from the Commission C(2022) 7388 final of 19.10.2022, not yet published

<sup>9</sup> Communication from the Commission C/2022/481, OJ C 80, 18.2.2022, p. 1–89

targets for energy and climate, and a climate-neutral economy for the Union by 2050, based on the Paris Agreement

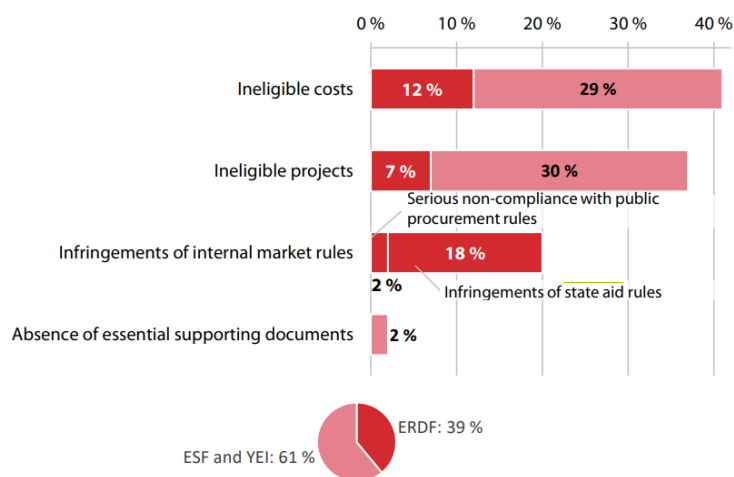
Consequently, substantial amounts of these Funds’ allocations will directly support economic activities (e.g. broadband, energy networks, renewable energy, etc.), which is likely to constitute State aid.

## 2.4 Issues highlighted by the European Court of Auditors

The graphs below show that there is a relative stability of errors identified by the European Court of Auditors (ECA) in State Aid over the 4 years 2018-2021 (between 9% and 26% of the total errors detected), even though audit authorities seem to detect less issues than the ECA in proportion.

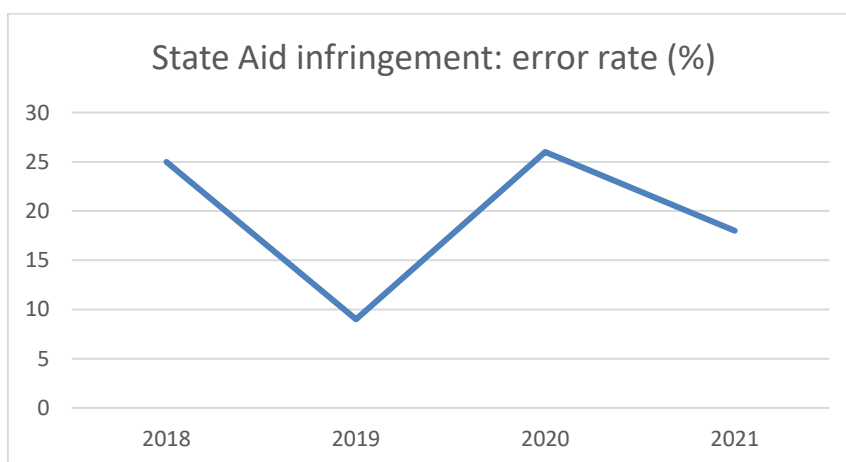
In the 2021 ECA Annual Report, non-compliance with State Aid accounted for 18 % of the estimated level of error in the cohesion area, after ineligible costs and projects which constitute the main source of errors. The ECA found 5 infringements of State aid rules, of which three were quantified (0.7 percentage points of the estimated level of error).

Figure 5.3 – Breakdown of the errors found



Source: ECA AR 2021, p. 150

Contribution of State aid errors to ECA estimated level of error in cohesion policy 2018-2021:



In its replies to the ECA 2021 Annual Report, the Commission noted that over the past years, errors related to State aid rules identified by Member States authorities and the Commission have globally remained less frequent as far as the Cohesion policy funds are concerned, which shows the impact of the measures designed under the Commission’s State aid action plan. For the most recent accounting year 2020 – 2021, according to the joint typology of errors agreed with audit authorities, only 1.7% of the findings identified by

Member States, and 9% of those identified by the Commission, concerned State aid. For the accounting year 2019 – 2020, only 3% of the findings identified by Member States, and 4% of those identified by the Commission, concerned State aid. The Commission continues to implement the measures designed under its State aid action plan identifying and disseminating good practices and offering training to all ESIF fund stakeholders.

## 2.5 Horizontal enabling conditions

The Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) for the period 2021-2027 identified ‘horizontal enabling conditions’ (HEC) as a prerequisite for the effective and efficient implementation of the specific objectives and investments of the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund and the JTF. One of the HECs pertains to State aid, namely ‘Tools and capacity for effective application of State aid rules’. This pre-condition builds upon the "ex ante conditionalities" of the 2014-2020 period, under which Member States were required to put in place arrangements (i) for the effective application of State aid rules, (ii) for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESIF funds, and (iii) to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of State aid rules. Under the State aid HEC, Member States need to demonstrate that their managing authorities have the necessary tools and capacity to verify compliance with State aid rules:

- (1) For undertakings in difficulty and undertakings under a recovery requirement; and
- (2) Through access to expert advice and guidance on State aid matters, provided by State aid experts of local or national bodies.

The enabling condition is fulfilled when both criteria are met.

## 3 PREVIOUS ACTIONS AND OUTPUT

In 2015 a first common State aid Action Plan for 2015-2016 was agreed between DG REGIO and DG COMP, aiming at raising awareness and knowledge of State aid rules among ESIF stakeholders. This first common action plan was followed by two subsequent action plans for 2017-2018 and 2018-2022.

The common action plan for 2018-2022 included the following actions.

Action	Description	State of play
<b>Strategic training programme for ESIF stakeholders</b>	The demand for State aid training of ESIF stakeholders (including ESIF practitioners and auditors) in Member States remained very high throughout the 2018-2022 period, significantly exceeding the capacity of the training offer. Therefore, regular training sessions were organised 2-3 times a year. The training sessions were designed in cooperation with, and delivered by, the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA). This training offered an overview of key State aid policies (including GBER, de Minimis, etc.) relevant for the management of ESIF programmes, while at the same time explaining the latest changes to State aid legislation, as well as practical State aid case examples. Target group: Practitioners involved in the management, implementation and control of ESIF. Location: Brussels (DG REGIO premises) and online training sessions, which were introduced during the pandemic.	In 2018-2022, 11 training sessions were carried out. Each of these sessions were attended by 30-35 participants, on average. All training materials, as well as the recording of some previous State aid training sessions, are available on the InfoREGIO website. The training is well received and very much appreciated by the participants. According to survey results, the participants appreciate the quality of the training, expertise and knowledge of the trainers, as well as the Q&A sessions with DG COMP where they can clarify any outstanding State aid related issues.
<b>Thematic expert seminars</b>	These thematic seminars were aimed at disseminating specialised State aid knowledge on particular topics/issues relevant for the implementation of ESIF. The seminars held for ESIF practitioners in Member States involved in the management, implementation and control of funds in selected topics. Organisation of the thematic seminars was outsourced but included speakers from DG COMP.	In 2018, two thematic State aid seminars were organised. The two topics examined were “State aid rules for environmental protection with focus on low-emission mobility” and “EU-rules for RDI State Aid”. Both seminars were attended by around 50 participants. In subsequent years there were no seminars organised, since it was not possible to organise

Action	Description	State of play
		physical events due to the pandemic, which is the best form for this type of event.
<b>Training for DG REGIO and DG EMPL desk officers</b>	Due to very high workload in preparing for 2021-2027, there was rather limited interest from DG REGIO and DG EMPL desk officers. However, the ones that were interested in attending State aid training were admitted to the training sessions organised for Member States practitioners. Currently a new module specifically for DG REGIO and DG EMPL desk officers is being set-up in cooperation with EIPA and a survey has been launched to identify desk officers' interest in such training.	In 2018-2021, there were on average 2-3 DG REGIO and/or DG EMPL colleagues attending State aid training sessions. There were no DG REGIO or DG EMPL officers attending these sessions in 2022.
<b>Peer exchanges and communities of practice</b>	REGIO Peer2Peer + offers two types of peer learning options for staff of programme authorities on topics related to the implementation of ERDF, CF and JTF programmes, including State aid: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TAIEX-REGIO Peer2Peer supports one-off or a series of exchanges between staff of programme authorities, at their request.</li> <li>- The REGIO Peer2Peer communities are EU-wide networks of staff from programme authorities that focus on specific issues or challenges, and develop a longer-term dialogue on them.</li> </ul>	- In 2018-2022 issues related to State aid were addressed in 10 TAIEX-REGIO exchanges, involving 19 Member States (see annex for details). - The REGIO Peer2Peer Community on State Aid is the longest standing community and has produced a number of tools helping programme authorities facing State aid related challenges. The information about this community's actions and results is available at: <a href="https://europa.eu/lxVdBBr">https://europa.eu/lxVdBBr</a>
<b>Pool of thematic experts</b>	The objective was to 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 with which they were unfamiliar with. The emphasis would be on advising how to best achieve a given objective within the State aid framework	This action has not been implemented due to no demand expressed by Member States.
<b>Improved communication and coordination of key State aid issues</b>	The objective of this action was to raise awareness among ESIF stakeholders informing them about new developments in State aid rules (e.g. amendments of State aid rules, revision of GBER, etc.) that are of relevance to ESIF practitioners. Target group: ESIF practitioners in all Member States and DG REGIO staff	In 2018, publication of summary information on the last batch of infrastructure assessment grids and a link to the grids was published on InfoRegio. Updates and clarifications on State aid rules have been provided to DG REGIO officials in the context of the seminars on State aid Horizontal enabling conditions. Availability of DG COMP and DG REGIO contacts to discuss concrete issues, as they arise.
<b>Meeting of senior management of DG REGIO and DG COMP</b>	According to this action, DG REGIO had to collect from Member States information on specific State aid problems faced by managing authorities and other ESIF bodies, if any, and inform DG COMP thereof in advance of the meetings	Prior to and during the State aid training sessions, where DG COMP was also present, information and specific questions from Member States were collected. DG COMP clarified these issues and replied to Member States' questions, either during or after the trainings. No other information on State aid related issues was received by DG REGIO. At the mid-point of the implementation of the Common State aid plan, a middle-management level meeting was organised between DG REGIO and DG COMP, where it was agreed that the actions identified in this action plan remain relevant, as well as the topics of the State aid training. In March 2019, senior management of DG COMP and DG REGIO met to discuss issues of common interest regarding the draft Cohesion policy legislation for the 2021-2027 period.

## 4 ACTION PLAN FOR 2023-2027

The Action Plan for 2023-2027 takes account of the outcomes of the previous common State aid action plans and updates the actions accordingly:

- The actions envisaged in the new action plan will enable the two DGs to further improve the State aid knowledge and expertise of national and regional authorities involved in the management of the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund and the JTF for the programming period 2021-2027.
- The scope of the Action Plan is extended. Firstly, the actions will target a wider audience than in the past. 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.

Unit E1 in DG REGIO and Unit H1 in DG COMP will remain responsible for the coordination and implementation of the Action Plan. They will meet when necessary to discuss the state of play of the Action Plan. REGIO B4, as well as COMP A3 are consulted, if necessary<sup>10</sup>.

The Action Plan will be published on the InfoRegio website.

### 4.1 Strategic training programme and seminars for the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund and the JTF stakeholders

The strategic training programme has been well received and has been in very high demand for a number of years. The training sessions not only explain State aid provisions relevant for those managing the funds, but also provide an update on the latest developments in the State aid area. The feedback from the participants clearly shows their appreciation for the training that meets their needs, the possibility to discuss various aspects with the trainers that have years of expertise in State aid, as well as the opportunity to raise specific questions with DG COMP during the Q&A session.

#### 4.1.1 State aid training of the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund and the JTF practitioners

**Objective:** The objective is to raise awareness of the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund and the JTF practitioners of State aid provisions linked to management of the funds. The training sessions explain to the practitioners such important topics as the use of the GBER, de-minimis aid, aid that may be granted to an undertaking providing services of general economic interest, as well as measures set out by the Commission in response to the outbreak of COVID-19 or the Ukraine crisis. After completion of the training, the participants should be able, for example, to detect the presence of State aid in support schemes, and design calls for proposal accordingly. The participants are also expected to disseminate State aid knowledge acquired at the training to other stakeholders, including beneficiaries, within Member States.

**Target group:** Practitioners from all Member States involved in the management of the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund and the JTF. 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, as well as various institutions.

**Frequency:** At least two to three training sessions annually.

**Organisation:** In the past, the training sessions were organised and delivered by the EIPA. Since the framework contract has ended, a call for tender for a new one has been published. After the selection of a new contractor, the content of the training sessions will need to be agreed. DG COMP will participate in the

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<sup>10</sup> 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 or if they concern ‘country coordination’ at large.

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

#### **4.1.2 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 the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund and the JTF, and pose specific State aid questions.

*Target group:* Practitioners from all Member States involved in the management, implementation and control of the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund and the JTF in a specific selected topic relevant for the management of these funds. The groups attending the seminar shall not exceed 50 participants, in order to allow for optimal interaction. In case of oversubscription, participants will be selected as to achieve a representative mix of Member States, as well as various institutions.

*Frequency:* Thematic seminars organised according to demand. The seminars should be organised as physical events (health and safety situation permitting) due to their interactive nature.

*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.

#### **4.1.3 Training for DG REGIO and DG EMPL officers**

*Objective:* The objective is to provide a general training on State aid issues (substance and procedure) to DG REGIO and DG EMPL staff. This could take the form of participation of interested officers in DG COMP internal State aid training courses if capacity allows.

*Target group:* DG REGIO, DG EMPL and DAC officers.

*Frequency:* 1-2 trainings per year.

*Organisation:* Organised by DG COMP informing DG REGIO, DG EMPL and DAC prior to the trainings. It could also be organised by DG REGIO according to demand.



## 4.2 Exchange of good practices

### 4.2.1 PEER 2 PEER exchanges

Objective: Continue using TAIEX-REGIO Peer2 Peer exchanges and REGIO Peer2Peer communities for expert visits, study visits or small-scale workshops and networking on issues related to State aid. The peer exchanges will not only help to disseminate knowledge on State aid rules and to promote good practices in specific areas (TAIEX-REGIO Peer2Peer), but also help Member States in finding and building joint solutions for their concrete common challenges (REGIO Peer2Peer community).

Frequency: Ongoing activity; based upon requests from Member States.

Organisation: Within the framework of REGIO Peer2Peer + that includes both TAIEX-REGIO Peer2Peer and REGIO Peer2Peer communities.

### 4.2.2 REGIO Peer2Peer Community on State Aid

Objective: Expert level discussion of State aid issues with high relevance to the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund and the JTF. The objective is to exchange experience and best practices between authorities and experts involved in the implementation of the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund and the JTF operations. The participants will discuss selected topics in depth and might develop approaches to tackle joint challenges or issue notes summarising (common) positions and recommendations.

Selected topics could cover new developments (e.g. Commission decisions, judgment by European courts) or issues of practical relevance to all/most Member States (e.g. related to infrastructure projects, simplified cost options).

Target group: The community consists of staff from managing authorities and other bodies involved in the implementation of the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund and the JTF programmes dealing with State aid.

Frequency: One meeting every other month (either online or in-person).

Organisation: The organisation will be done through REGIO Peer2Peer +. The meetings will take place either online or in-person (locations tbc).

## 4.3 Coordination and communication

### 4.3.1 Meeting of middle management of DG REGIO and DG COMP

*Objective:* DG REGIO will collect specific State aid problems faced by Managing Authorities and other ERDF, ESF+, Cohesion Fund and JTF bodies, if any, and inform DG COMP thereof in advance of the meetings. DG COMP will respond, and provide information on significant State aid decisions and Court rulings, which are relevant to the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund and the JTF. In case a Member State has a weakness in designing State aid schemes and/or complying with State aid rules the middle management will identify and evaluate options to remedy the problem.

*Target group:* Middle management of DG REGIO and DG COMP.

*Frequency:* As required.

*Organisation:* Organised jointly by DG REGIO and DG COMP.

### 4.3.2 Communication

Communication activities such as dissemination of relevant State aid information to the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund and the JTF stakeholders will continue for the period 2023-2027.

## ANNEX

### Overview of PEER 2 PEER exchanges related to State aid

Title of exchange	Type of event	Participants	Date
<b>State aid map in Research, Development and Innovation sector</b>	Multi-Country Workshop	Agency for Innovation and Development of Andalusia (ES), Ministry of Investment and Economic Development (PL), Research Council (LT)	21/22/06/2018
<b>State Aid Monitoring in National ERDF programmes</b>	Multi-country workshop	VLAIO - Flanders Innovation & Entrepreneurship (BE), Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds (HR), Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (CZ), Region Nouvelle-Aquitaine (FR), Region Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur (FR), Regional Council of Burgundy - Franche-Comté (FR), Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Housing (DE), Hungarian Permanent Representation to the EU (HU), Autonomous Region of Sardinia-Regional Programming Centre (IT), Ministry of Finance (LV), Lithuanian business support agency (LT), Ministry of Economic Affairs (LU), Ministry of European Funds (RO), Agency for Innovation and Development of Andalusia (ES)	3-4/04/2019
<b>State Aid Map on Transport Sector</b>	Multi-Country Workshop	Région Nouvelle-Aquitaine (FR), Deutsche Bahn (DE), German Aerospace Center, Institute of Air Transport and Airport Research (DE), Ministry of Economic Development (PL), Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications (BG), Joint Secretariat   Interreg South Baltic Programme 2014 – 2020) Central Project Management Agency (LT), Ministry of Finance (LV), Ministry of Finance (SI), Ministry of Innovation and Technology (HU)	30-31/10/2018
<b>State aid for Research Infrastructures and Projects led by Public Bodies</b>	Multi-country workshop	Joint Secretariat   Interreg South Baltic Programme, Ministry of Finance (LV), Ministry of Investment and Development (PL), Government of Catalonia (ES), Flanders Innovation & Entrepreneurship (BE)	11-12/12/2018

<b>State aid map in Energy Sector</b>	Multi-country workshop	VLAIO - Flanders Innovation & Entrepreneurship (BE); Ministry of Education and Science (BG); Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds (HR); Regional Council of Lapland (FI); General Commission for Territorial Equality (FR); Delegation of the Region New-Aquitaine (FR); Hungarian State Aid Monitoring Office - Ministry for Technology and Innovation (HR); Public Investment Development Agency -VIPA (LT); Ministry of Energy (LT); Energy and Water Agency (MT); Commission for Regional Coordination and Development of the Central Region (PT); North East Regional Development Agency (RO); Ministry of Infrastructure (SI); Generalitat of Catalonia (ES); Andalusian Energy Agency (ES); Agency for Innovation and Development of Andalusia (ES); Junta de Castilla y Leon (ES); Welsh European Funding Office (UK)	19-20/03/2019
<b>State aid rules in European Territorial Cooperation programmes (ETC)</b>	Study Visit	Ministry of Investment and Economic Development (PL); Joint Secretariat of INTERREG VA Belgium-The Netherlands Programme	15-17/10/2019
<b>State aid in the Rail and Public Transport Sectors</b>	Multi-Country Workshop	Ministry of Investment and Economic Development (PL); Ministry of Transport; Information Technology and Communications (BG); National Railway Infrastructure Company (BG); Ministry of Sea; Transport and Infrastructure (HR); Deutsche Bahn (DE); Ministry of Transport and Communications (LT); Romanian Competition Council (RO)	03-04/12/2019
<b>Application of State Aid Rules</b>	Study Visit	Ministry of Finance; State aid Control Department (LV); Presidency of the Council of Ministers; department for European Policies	15-17/01/2020
<b>State aid training</b>	Online Workshop	Northern and Western Regional Assembly (IE); Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly (IE); Innovation and Development Agency of Andalusia (ES); (Ministry of Finance (LV)	25 - 26/03/2021
<b>State aid training</b>	Online Workshop	Northern and Western Regional Assembly (IE); Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly (IE); Innovation and Development Agency of Andalusia (ES); Ministry of Finance (LV)	25 - 26/03/2021

## Frequency of proposed actions

	2023-2027			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Strategic training programme</b>				
Training for ERDF, ESF+, Cohesion Fund and JTF practitioners	1-2		1	
Thematic expert seminars			based on demand	
Training for DG REGIO staff (according to demand)	1-2			
<b>Exchange of good practices</b>				
Peer 2 Peer exchanges	<i>demand driven</i>			
Peer 2 Peer Community	1			
<b>Coordination</b>				
Middle management meetings (as required)	2			