



Identifying and preventing fraud and corruption in Structural & Cohesion Funds

14-15 & 17-18 February 2022

Venue

Online using Zoom platform

Organised

For DG REGIO by EIPA

DAY 1

- 14.00 **Opening of the online platform**
- 14.15 **Welcome and Introduction from European Commission DG REGIO**
Stefan Appel, Head of Unit DG Regional and urban policy, European Commission
- 14.20 **Objectives and Methodology of the Seminar**
Marco Lopriore, Expert, EIPA, Maastricht (NL)
- 14.25 **Introduction to identifying and preventing fraud; fraud indicators**
Dermot Byrne (IE), Head Audit Authority, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Ireland
- Architecture of the system
 - Rules and definitions of irregularities, (suspected) fraud and corruption
 - Information Note on Fraud Indicators for ERDF, ESF and CF COCOF 09/0003/00 – EN
 - Fraud triangle
- 15.00 **Protecting financial interests and the role of AFCOS/EPPO; practice of on-the-spot-checks**
Dr. Andon Tashukov (BG), Case Analyst EPPO, Former Legal Advisor, AFCOS, Ministry of interior, Bulgaria
- EU policies to fight fraud
 - Role of AFCOS and the role of EPPO
 - Case study on the spot check
- 15.45 Virtual coffee break meeting room
- 16.00 **Break-out rooms on innovative methods to combat fraud**
Dr. Andon Tashukov
- 16.30 **Fraud prevention and annual assurance process**
Dermot Byrne
- Audits of systems and of operations (including sampling)
 - Irregularities and financial corrections
- 16.40 **Reporting fraud; case study on digital forensic**
Dr. Andon Tashukov
- Reporting of irregularities/PACA
 - Digital Forensic operations
- 17.15 **Q&A session with DG REGIO Officials**
Chaired by *Marco Lopriore*
- 17.30 End of day

DAY 2

- 09.00 **Opening of the online platform**
- 09.15 **Review of Day 1**
Marco Lopriore
- 09.20 **Models for assessing risk of fraud**
Dermot Byrne
- Risk Assessment Tool
 - Recommended mitigating controls
 - Anti-Fraud Policy (tone at the top).
 - Guidance for Audit Authority verification work

- 10.00 **National Anti-Fraud Strategies**
Dr. Andon Tashukov
- National Antifraud strategies (NAFS); Fighting corruption
 - Case Studies
- 10.20 **Break-out rooms on sources of information for investigations**
- 10.45 Virtual Coffee Break meeting room
- 11.05 **Role of Member States Auditors in Fraud prevention and detection: OLAF handbook**
Dermot Byrne
- 11.30 **Case study on investigations and cooperation with judicial authorities**
Dr. Andon Tashukov
- Investigations; New mechanism to overview legality of pretrial proceedings of ESIF funds
 - Cooperation with the Supreme Prosecutor's office, regional and district prosecutors, police
 - Case study of fraud
- 12.00 **Q&A session with OLAF officials**
 Chaired by *Marco Lopriore*
- 12.30 **End of the day**

DAY 3

- 14.00 **Opening of the online platform**
- 14.15 **Review of Day 2**
Marco Lopriore
- 14.20 **Fraud Risk Management, processes and coverage**
Jo Kremers (NL), former senior audit manager Audit Authority, Central Audit Services, Lecturer for the National Academy for Finance and Economics of The Ministry of Finance, The Netherlands (NL)
- Multiple Choice Questions polling: A warming up session, to test and to refresh your knowledge
 - The Anti Fraud Cycle (AFC) and the Management control Systems (MCS), special attention for Deterrence
 - The Fraud Risk Assessment (FRSA): the tool
 - Break-out rooms on real live cases and plenary assessment
- 15.45 Virtual Coffee Break
- 16.00 **Improving frameworks against fraud & corruption**
Jo Kremers
- The Frame for successful combating fraud and corruption in ESI Funds
 - The Fraud symbols, how to make use of these to give follow up to those symbols
 - Break out rooms on real live cases and plenary assessment
- 17.00 **Specific challenges in preventing fraud**
Marco Lopriore
- Reviewing your eligibility rules, ESF Challenges, Simplified Cost Options
 - Double funding; Conflict of interest
- 17.30 **End of the day**

DAY 4

09.00 **Opening of the online platform**

09.15 **Review of Day 3**
Marco Lopriore

09.20 **Improving performance of detection**
Jo Kremers (NL)

- Fraud Detection, a special for management verifications and audits
- The most important anti-fraud instruments for verification, audit and investigation
- Carrying out on the spot visits
- Break-out rooms discussing cases and plenary assessment

10.45 Virtual Coffee Break

11.00 **Key requirements and assessing MCS**
Jo Kremers

- Innovation in KR2, KR4, KR15 and KR16 in general and in specific for combating fraud & corruption
- Data analytics, very effective, behind desk by use of the most important instruments
- Break-out rooms on real live cases (participants will need their laptops or tablets)

12.30 **End of the online course**