



Single Framework Service Contract for the Provision of and Support to Training (2023CE160AT004)

Identifying and preventing fraud and corruption in Structural and Cohesion Funds 2021-2027

Venue

Online

Organised

For DG REGIO by EIPA-CPVA

Dates

14, 15, 16, 17 October 2024

Online Programme

MONDAY 14 October 2024

- 14.00 **Access of participants to the Zoom 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, former Head Audit Authority, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Ireland (IE)
- Architecture of the system; KR 7
 - 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 **Fraud prevention and Annual Assurance process**
Dermot Byrne, former Head Audit Authority, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Ireland (IE)
- Audits of systems
 - Audits of operations (including sampling)
 - Irregularities and financial corrections
- 15.30 Virtual coffee break
- 15.45 **Protecting the financial interests of the EU. The role of AFCOS and EPPO**
Dr Andon Tashukov, Case Analyst EPPO, Former Legal Advisor, AFCOS, Ministry of interior, Bulgaria
- PIF Directive, AMLD, Whistleblowers, New direction on Corruption
 - Role of AFCOS and EPPO
- 16.30 **Break-out rooms on innovative methods to combat fraud**
Dr Andon Tashukov, Marco Lopriore and Lucrezia Tombelli
- 17.00 **Cooperation with OLAF. Reporting of irregularities**
Dr Andon Tashukov
- Cooperation between national authorities and OLAF
 - PACA and primary findings
 - Reporting of irregularities/PACA and gaps in reporting
- 17.45 End of the day

TUESDAY 15 October 2024

- 13.45 **Access of participants to the Zoom online platform**
- 14.00 **Q&A session with DG REGIO Officials**
 Chaired by *Marco Lopriore*
- 14.15 **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
- 15.00 **Case on digital forensics. National Anti-Fraud Strategies**
 Dr Andon Tashukov
- Digital forensics: resistance of an economic operator
 - EU cohesion and the National Antifraud strategies (NAFS);
 - Case Studies from PIF reports
- 15.30 **Break-out rooms on sources of information for investigations**
 Dr Andon Tashukov, Marco Lopriore and Lucrezia Tombelli
- 16.00 Virtual coffee break meeting room
- 16.15 **Role of Member States Auditors in Fraud prevention and detection: OLAF handbook**
 Dermot Byrne
- 16.45 ***Modus operandi* on investigations and cooperation with judicial authorities**
 Dr Andon Tashukov
- *Modus operandi*: administrative and criminal investigations
 - Cooperation with the Supreme Prosecutor's office, regional and district prosecutors, police
 - Case study of fraud
- 17.30 End of the day

WEDNESDAY 16 October 2024

- 13.45 **Access of participants to the Zoom online platform**
- 14.00 **Q&A session with OLAF**
 Chaired by *Marco Lopriore*
- 14.20 **Fraud Risk Management, processes and coverage**
 Jo Kremers, 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, Simplified Cost Options
 - ESF Challenges
 - Double funding with RRF funds
- 17.30 End of the day

THURSDAY 17 October 2024

- 09.00 **Access of participants to the Zoom online platform**
- 09.10 **Review of Day 3**
Marco Lopriore
- 09.15 **Improving National approach to tackling fraud: the Croatian system**
Marina Mandac, Head of Department for Methodology, Service for Support to Audit Processes, Sector for Management of Horizontal Processes, Agency for Audit of European Union Programmes Implementation System (Croatian Audit Authority)
- Croatian framework for fraud prevention and detection
 - Fraud patterns/tools used in Croatia
 - Gap analysis report in fraud prevention
 - Prevention of Conflict of interest
- 10.45 Virtual Coffee break
- 11.00 **Key requirements and assessing MCS**
Jo Kremers
- Innovation in KR2, KR4, KR 7 and KR15 in general and in specific for combating fraud & corruption
 - Data analytics, very effective, behind desk by use of the most important instruments (Meta data)
 - Break-out rooms on real live cases (participants will need their laptops or tablets) : using VIES and OSINT, plagiarism
- 12.15 **Q&A session with DG EMPL on ARACHNE**
Chaired by *Marco Lopriore*
- 12.30 **End of the online course**