



fi-compass event series
Thematic workshops on ESI Funds financial instruments

Financial instruments for enhancing SME competitiveness in the programming period 2014-2020

Luxembourg, Wednesday, 16 November 2016

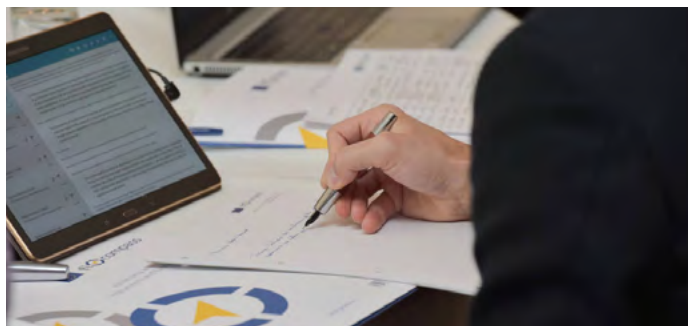
Programme



Background of event

fi-compass provides new learning opportunities for those directly involved in the design, set-up and implementation of financial instruments through its new series of *fi-compass* workshops on ESI Funds financial instruments to support specific thematic objectives and sectors.

The first thematic *fi-compass* workshop on ESI Fund co-financed risk capital financial instruments supporting Thematic Objective 3 'Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs' will take place on 16 November 2016 in Luxembourg.



Objectives / Methodology

The purpose of the workshop is to:

- Provide participants with an opportunity to learn from experiences of other Member States and regions in implementing financial instruments to support the Thematic Objective 3 'SME Competitiveness' in the programming period 2014-2020;
- Create a forum for participants to share their own experience and progress in implementing a financial instrument for SME competitiveness.
- Enable participants to exchange on a *peer-to-peer* basis with the speakers and other participants on ways to deal with technical challenges they face regarding the design, set-up and implementation of an SME competitiveness financial instrument.

Methodology of the workshop

During the workshop, national representatives from managing authorities, an intermediate body and financial intermediaries as well as European Investment Bank (EIB) experts will take participants through the different phases of the life cycle when designing and implementing an SME competitiveness financial instrument, based on two case studies:

- Access to Finance Solutions for SMEs in Northern Ireland, and
- EstFund – ESI Fund and EFSI Combination in Estonia.

The event will consist of:

- Presentations by experts from the managing authorities, an intermediate body, financial intermediaries and EIB experts;
- Question and answer sessions and *peer-to-peer* discussions following each of the case study sessions; and
- Networking opportunities with speakers and participants.



Audience

This thematic workshop is designed especially for managing authorities and other stakeholders from all EU Member States directly involved in the design, set-up and implementation of risk capital financial instruments related to the Thematic Objective 3 'Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs'.

Venue

Hotel Novotel Luxembourg Kirchberg
6 Rue du Fort Niedergruenewald
2226 Luxembourg City

> [How to get here](#)

Language

The event will take place in English.

Registration

Registration for this workshop has been closed due to high demand. This event may be repeated at a later date and advertised in advance on the [fi-compass website](#).

Costs

Registration is free. Participants are expected to finance their own travel and accommodation costs. In case of unforeseen circumstances such as force majeure or low participant numbers, the event might be moved to a different date or cancelled. In this case, registered participants will be informed immediately via email. The reimbursement of travel and accommodation expenses or work hours lost will not be possible.



Agenda

Luxembourg, 16 November 2016 (Wednesday)

Venue: Hotel Novotel Luxembourg Kirchberg, 6 Rue du Fort Niedergruenewald, 2226 Luxembourg City

Moderator: Pieter Coppens, European Investment Bank

9:00 – 9:30 Registration and coffee

9:30 – 9:35 **Welcome**

Pieter Coppens, European Investment Bank

9:35 – 11:00 **Access to Finance Solutions for SMEs in Northern Ireland**

Maeve Hamilton, Department of Economy, Northern Ireland

Charles Hamilton and **William McCulla**, Invest Northern Ireland

Hal Wilson, Pentech Ventures

Representatives of the Managing Authority (Department of Economy, Northern Ireland) and the Intermediate Body (Invest Northern Ireland) who were directly involved in setting up the financial instruments for SMEs in Northern Ireland, as well as a representative from one of the financial intermediaries selected, will provide participants with hands-on insights from the process of designing, setting up and implementing risk capital financial instruments for enhancing SME competitiveness (TO 3), analysing the essential practical aspects and key challenges.

11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee and networking**

11:30 – 12:30 **Q&A and peer-to-peer discussion**

Facilitator: Miglena Dobрева, European Investment Bank

On the basis of the case study from Northern Ireland, participants will have the opportunity to discuss questions with the speakers regarding the established financial instruments and to exchange with other peers participating in the seminar on their state of play, practical experiences and/or plans to launch financial instruments supporting SME competitiveness in their Member State or region.

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch break with networking opportunity**

14:00 – 15:10 **EstFund – ESI Fund and EFSI Combination in Estonia**

Kadri Mats, KredEx, Estonia

Krisjanis Zarins, European Investment Fund

Representatives from KredEx and the European Investment Fund who, in cooperation with the Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, were directly involved in setting up EstFund in Estonia will describe the process of designing, setting up and implementing a fund of funds, combining resources from the ESI Funds and the EFSI that will invest in several risk capital funds for SME investments. The speakers will cover the delivery architecture and state of play of EstFund, explaining how ESI Funds and EFSI resources can be combined for implementing risk capital financial instruments for SME support in the programming period 2014-2020.

15:10 – 15:50 **Q&A and peer-to-peer discussion**

Facilitator: Miglena Dobрева, European Investment Bank

On the basis of the case study from Estonia, participants will have the opportunity to discuss with the speakers and other peers participating in the seminar the opportunities and challenges of implementing financial instruments for SME competitiveness combining resources from ESI Funds and EFSI and to continue the peer-to-peer exchange on their own experiences and/or plans to implement TO 3 focussed financial instruments in their Member State or region.

15:50 – 16:00 **Final remarks**

Pieter Coppens, European Investment Bank

fi-compass event series

Thematic workshops on ESI Funds financial instruments

In autumn 2016, *fi-compass* started a new series of events dedicated to financial instruments supporting specific thematic objectives in the programming period 2014-2020.

These workshops share the experience of managing authorities, financial intermediaries and final recipients and take participants through the different phases of the life cycle of designing and implementing a thematic/ sector focused financial instrument and allow for direct interaction between participants:

- Managing authorities' representatives showcase their experiences in establishing the financial instrument and their considerations when undertaking the ex-ante assessment, designing the financial instrument, engaging with other funders/ investors and running the financial intermediary selection process. Public procurement and State aid challenges, where applicable, may be particularly interesting to highlight in this regard;
- Financial intermediaries give their feedback/ share their experiences in 'bidding' for the management of the financial instrument, and securing co-financing as appropriate. They might also set out their experiences and challenges in targeting and assisting potential final recipients in preparing their projects for financing, mobilising technical support, grant and/or other resources to fund the projects;
- Where possible, final recipients elaborate on the benefits they saw in obtaining financing from the financial instrument, how this helped catalyse their project, as well as the challenges experienced in meeting collateral, reporting and monitoring requirements required by the financial intermediary.

We invite stakeholders directly involved or planning to become involved in the implementation of financial instruments supporting specific thematic objectives to stay in touch with *fi-compass* and attend our upcoming thematic events.

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