



# STATE AID KNOWLEDGE HUB Main takeaways from meeting

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# Main takeaways



**Knowledge Hub**

- Workshop held on 19 June 2019
  - 14 representatives from 9 MSs
  - EC: DG REGIO and DG COMP
  - EIB *fi-compass*
  - Discussion under Chatham house rules
- 2 case studies for financial instruments to demonstrate challenges:
  - SME Financial Instrument:
    - How to calculate aid in line with *de minimis* Regulation
    - Effect of ex post modification to loan terms on aid amount
    - Potential aid at the level of the financial intermediary
    - GBER or notification as alternative legal bases
  - Energy Efficiency Financial Instrument:
    - How to ensure state aid compliance for the few undertakings that may be beneficiaries
    - Is “no aid” an option?
    - GBER Article 39 as an alternative legal base?
- Conclusion: Open exchange proved useful in sharing best practices, facilitate interpretation of rules, identifying where improvements could be suggested to COMP



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# Discussion on pass-on of benefit at level of financial intermediary



**Knowledge Hub**

- Wide use of pass-on of benefit to demonstrate no aid at level of financial intermediary
- Best practices shared:
  - Various methods depending on instrument
  - Calculating the aid element of guarantee to intermediary and aid to final recipients
  - Transparency of pricing: benchmarking against market rates / historic pricing data - e.g. the bidder's proposed reduction in loan pricing and/or other advantages resulting from the benefit conferred by the ESIF/national resources
  - Inclusion of criteria in the selection process
  - Contractualisation of pass-on commitments
- Conclusion: Benefit in sharing knowledge/best practice and solutions



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