

Financial Instruments in Germany – State of Play Ulrike Schreckenberger, EU Structural Funds Unit,

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fi-compass seminar Financial Instruments delivering ESI Funds, 25 February 2016, Berlin





European Commission





Fls in Germany – review

- Successful use of FIs in Germany since 2007
- Mostly referring to SMEs
- Revolving character, tight public financial resources, no windfall gains
- Complementing grants
- According to orientation of OP and regional characteristics /needs option to choose the suitable instrument

→ Fls reasonable extension of funding resources



Fls 2007-2013 vs. 2014-2020

- **Scope** support for all thematic objectives
- **Set-up** compulsory ex ante assessment
- Implementation Options at all levels, tailor-made or off the shelf; contribution to EU level instruments
- **Payments** linked to disbursements to final recipients
- Management costs and fees, interest, resources returned, legacy – full provision set out from outset in basic, delegated and implementing acts
- **Reporting** compulsory reporting from outset



ERDF Fls Status Quo in Germany (I)

- 15 Länder use ERDF Funding for FIs (14 Länder in 2007-13)
 - Loans (10 Länder)
 - Equity/Venture Capital (13 Länder)
- 37 ex-ante assessments completed, 20 funding agreements signed
- TO 1 Innovation & research (9 Länder)
- TO 3 Competitiveness of SMEs (12 Länder)
- TO 4 Shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors (4 Länder)
- TO 6 Environment protection and ressource efficiency (1 Land)



ERDF Fls Status Quo in Germany (II)

- 2014-2020 Contribution to FIs EUR 1.125bn out of EUR 10.37bn
 → 11% allocation of FIs
- 2007-2013 Contribution to FIs: EUR 813m out of EUR 14.587bn
 → 5,57% allocation of FIs

ERDF FIs allocation is expected to double in 2014-2020 from 5,57% to 11%



General Conclusions / lessons learnt

- Heterogeneous conditions for SMEs financing in Europe
- Benefit of FI dependant on regional preconditions, therefore best assessed at regional level
- Importance of considering the starting position and the volume of financial means
- differentiated requests/approaches of Member States/Regions
- Clarity on legal requirements and legal certainty most important
- Clear conditions from the start, no retroactive interpretations



Outlook / Suggestions

- Audit and Control: obligations should be proportionate
- Legal Clarity/Security: needed early in the funding period, especially in respect to the funding agreements







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