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Financial Instruments 2014-2020 under European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

Speakers' Guide

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Jyrki Katainen

Vice-President of the European Commission

Jyrki Katainen is currently Vice President of the College of Commissioners responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness. He joined the College of Commissioners in July 2014 as European Commission Vice-President for Economic and Monetary Affairs and the Euro. Before that he served as a Prime Minister of Finland, 2011 - 2014 and Minister of Finance, 2007 - 2011. He was Member of Finnish Parliament 1999 - 2014 for the National Coalition Party (Kokoomus). Jyrki Katainen was twice elected as a Vice President of the European People's Party, 2006 and 2009 and Vice President of the Youth of the European People's Party, 1990 - 2000. He was Member of the Finnish Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly 2003 - 2007, Member of the Administrative Council of the Finnish Broadcasting Company 2003 - 2005, Member of the Finnish Delegation to the Western European Union Parliamentary Assembly 2004 - 2005 and the Deputy Member of the Finnish Delegation to the Nordic Council 2001 - 2003. Jyrki Katainen has MSc in Political Science from the University of Tampere, Finland (1998) and he did an Erasmus exchange year at the University of Leicester, UK. His hobbies are running, cycling and tennis.



Wilhelm Molterer

Vice-President of the European Investment Bank

Mr Molterer from Austria is currently Vice-President and member of the management committee of the European Investment Bank (EIB). His previous experience includes:

2008-2011: Member of Parliament, Spokesperson for constitutional matters

2007-2008: Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister of Finance; Chairman of the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP)

2002-2006: Chairman of the Parliamentary Group of the Austrian People's Party/ÖVP

1995-2007: Vice Chairman of the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP)

1994-2002: Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

1993-1994: Secretary-General of Austrian People's Party (ÖVP)

1990-1994: Member of the Federal Parliament, Austrian People's Party/ÖVP, Spokesperson for Agriculture

1990-1993: Secretary-General of the Austrian Farmers' Association

1989-1990: Head of Cabinet of the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Franz Fischler

1987-1989: Economic Adviser to the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Josef Riegler

1984-1986: Economic Adviser to the Regional Minister of Agriculture in Upper Austria

1981-1984: Economic Adviser at the Austrian Farmers' Association

He obtained his Master's degree in Social Economics – Johannes Kepler University Linz in 1981.



Corina Crețu

European Commissioner for Regional Policy

Corina Crețu was born in Romania in 1967. She studied at the Academy of Economic Studies, Department of Cybernetics, graduating in 1989, the year of the Romanian Revolution. She started a career in journalism, working as a reporter and political commentator for several newspapers, before joining the Spokesperson's office of Romania's first democratically elected President, Ion Iliescu, in 1992. Four years later, she became a member of the Romanian Social Democratic Party, and led its Press department while it remained in opposition. When President Iliescu returned to office in 2000, she became his Spokesperson and the Head of the Public Communication Department of the Presidency. In the same year, she was elected Member of Parliament in the Chamber of Deputies and, in 2004, in the Senate. In 2005, she was part of the Romanian delegation to the European Parliament, and she was elected Member of the European Parliament (sitting with the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats) in 2007, following the accession of Romania to the European Union. She was re-elected as MEP in 2009 and in 2014. In 2013, she was elected Vice-President of the Romanian Social Democratic Party and in 2014, she was elected Vice-President of the European Parliament.



Walter Deffaa

Director General, Regional and Urban Policy, EC

Walter Deffaa studied Economics at the Universities of Tübingen and TU Berlin. PhD in economics (University of Stuttgart-Hohenheim), he has been working since 1983 at the European Commission in Brussels where he is since February 2012 Director General for Regional and Urban Policy. He has previously served as Director General for Taxation and Customs Union (2009-2012), as Director General of the Internal Audit Service (2004-2009), as Finance Director in the Regional Policy DG (2003-2004), as Director in the Secretariat General (2001-2003), as Director in DG BUDGET (1999-2001) and as Chef de Cabinet for Commissioner Wulf-Mathies (1997-1999). He was a visiting Professor at the College of Europe in Brugge, Belgium (1999-2009) and has published many articles on the EC budget and audit.



Lowri Evans

Director General, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, EC

Lowri Evans has been Director-General in DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries since 2010. Prior to that, she has worked in several policy areas in the European Commission notably Competition and Employment. She started her professional career in audit and accountancy with Deloitte.



Jerzy Bogdan Plewa

Director General, Agriculture and Rural Development, EC

Jerzy Plewa was appointed in April 2013 as Director-General after having successively held the position of Deputy Director General responsible for Rural Development and Deputy Director General in charge of international affairs. Born in Poland, Mr Plewa holds a PhD from the Warsaw University of Technology, Faculty of Power and Aeronautical Engineering specializing in mathematical modelling of systems and equipment for energy production. From 1997 until 2004, Mr Plewa was Under-Secretary of State at the Polish Ministry of Agriculture, where he was responsible for negotiations on agriculture issues and participated as chief negotiator of agricultural affairs in the negotiation of Poland's accession to the EU.



Michel Servoz

Director General, Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, EC

A French lawyer with a degree in political science. Before becoming Director-General for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion in 2014, he was Deputy Secretary General responsible for the Europe 2020 strategy and the EU budget. He started his career in France as a law professor, judge, and then as deputy secretary-general of the Court of Cassation. He joined the Commission in 1989, working in the departments of external relations and trade before joining the Secretariat General.



Marjut Santoni

Deputy Chief Executive, EIF

Marjut Santoni is Deputy Chief Executive of the EIF since 1 August 2013. Prior to this she was at the European Commission, Directorate General Economic and Financial Affairs (1996 - July 2013). Here she held various roles in the field of SME and infrastructure financing as well as sovereign lending. She dealt with the strategic design and implementation of financial instruments for infrastructure and climate change policies, which also included the management of the Euratom loan facility in the nuclear sector. From 2008 until 2010 the balance of payments lending to non-Euro countries or macro financial assistance lending to third countries also fell under her responsibilities. From 2001 until June 2007, she was advisor to the Commission's members on the EIF Board of Directors. She was previously at the Internal Audit Department of Dresdner Bank in Frankfurt am Main (1992-1995) and before this she was in the credit department of Dresdner Bank, Cologne and Leipzig (1991-1992) as a loan officer. She has a university degree in Economics and Finance from Hagen University and Augsburg University.



Miglena Dobрева

Ministry of Economy of Republic of Bulgaria

Miglena Dobрева joined the Ministry of Economy in 2006 and since then has been responsible for management of EU pre-accession and SF programmes. Miglena has more than 5 years' experience in monitoring of grant projects and financial engineering instruments for SMEs, set up under the JEREMIE Initiative in Bulgaria. Currently, she is acting Head of department for financial instruments within the Managing Authority of OP Competitiveness. As a Fellow of the Carl Friedrich Goerdeler Kolleg for Good Governance she specialized in various public and private institutions in Germany. She is a PhD graduate in Economics, specializing in the field of EU Cohesion policy and PPPs, with a Master's degree in International Economic Relations at the University of National and World Economy in Sofia.



Kiril Velitchkov

CIBANK (KBC Group) Bulgaria

Dr. Kiril Velitchkov is Head of European Projects and Financial Institutions, CIBANK, KBC Group. Kiril is leading the cooperation in the field of European programmes within KBC Group and is managing EU programmes-related activities at CIBANK. He represents KBC Group in the WG for Credit guarantees under the Vienna Initiative and the Association of Banks in Bulgaria in the programming of EU Funds 2014-2020.

He has more than 17 years of experience in EU programmes. He has worked at Phare and Socrates; think-tanks; the Goethe Institute where he was responsible for the EU projects within SEE. Kiril has consulted Bulgarian and foreign ministries and was an independent expert at the EC. He is a lecturer at New Bulgarian University. Kiril completed a PhD in EU Structural and Pre-Accession Funds in 2003.



Žaneta Maskalioviene

Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Lithuania

Žaneta is a chief specialist of Structural Support Policy Division in the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of Lithuania. She has 7 years working experience with EU structural funds. She is responsible for the planning of EU structural support measures including business support measures to develop human resources (trainings), promote job creation and financial engineering measures for promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship. Žaneta is responsible for the planning and implementing of the Entrepreneurship Promotion Fund (EPF). She has 8 years' experience working with the unemployed as a consultant in territorial labour exchange. Žaneta has a Master degree in Social work.



Audrius Zobotka

INVEGA Lithuania

Audrius Zobotka is Director General and Member of the Board at INVEGA - UAB "Investiciju ir verslo garantijos" (Investment and Business Guarantees, Ltd.). Audrius work at INVEGA since 2002. INVEGA is a financial institution established by the Government of Lithuania and supervised by the Ministry of Economy. With the mission to facilitate SME access to finance, INVEGA provides guarantees on SME loans and leasing financing, administers soft loan and global grant measures financed from EU SF resources. Together with KredEx, LGA and EIF, INVEGA is an investor of the Baltic Innovation Fund (BIF). Before joining INVEGA Audrius gained experience working as the sales manager, financial director, deputy CEO, CEO and member of the board in several private companies and also as a consultant. Audrius is also a member of the Board at AECM (European Association of Guarantee Societies) and leads trainings and provides consultancies on development of financial instruments. He graduated from Vilnius University and has a Bachelor degree in International Economics and Master degree in Personnel Management.



Nicholas Martyn

Deputy Director-General, Regional and Urban Policy, EC

Nicholas Martyn was born in England in 1951. He studied history as a first degree at Cambridge University, followed by law. After qualification, he practiced as a lawyer in England for 10 years working in a variety of areas from support to local community groups to commercial litigation in the High Court in London. In 1988 he succeeded in a competition for a post as a civil servant in the European Commission in Brussels. He has during his career with the Commission worked as a lawyer in the area of agriculture, held posts relating to financial control and audit, and for the last fourteen years worked in the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy. He was Director of Audit for 5 years, and subsequently Director of a geographic directorate responsible for the management of programmes in six Member States. On 1 March 2011 he was appointed Deputy Director-General, and he has responsibility for performance, policy and compliance. As DDG, he had particular responsibility for the preparation and negotiation of the legislative package for Cohesion Policy for the 2014-2020 period.



Rudolf Niessler

Director, DG Regional and Urban Policy, EC

Rudolf Niessler is Director for Policy coordination. He was born in Austria in 1956. He studied economics and informatics at the Vienna University and holds a PhD in economics. After qualifying he worked in economic research at the Institute for Advanced Studies and at the Federal Institute for Less-Favoured and Mountainous Areas. In 1991 he moved to the Federal Chancellery and was detached to the OECD in Paris where he was councillor for trade and environment. In 1997 he joined the European Commission. He served as Head of Unit in several functions covering Responsibilities such as impact assessment and urban affairs. In 2007 He was appointed Director for Policy Coordination. Since 2012 he is responsible for the overall policy strategy for Cohesion Policy. This covers impact assessment in relation to the EU economic governance and the relationship with the EIB group and other international financial institutions.



Simon Barnes

Head of Advisory Services, EIB

Simon holds a degree from University College London and post graduate qualifications from the Chartered Institute of Bankers. He began his banking career with the Barclays Group where he undertook various credit, corporate and structured finance assignments based in London, Sydney and Brussels in both professional and management functions. Simon joined the EIB in 1994, working firstly in Rome on Italian corporate and banking operations and subsequently in Luxembourg on the then Candidate Countries, where he had a particular focus on the origination of FDI-related projects in the run-up to EU Enlargement in 2004. He then joined the EIB Operations Support Department which he headed as from 2008. There, working under the Director General for Operations, he was responsible for the strategy and policy framework for financing activity across Europe as well as all personnel issues for the Directorate. In June 2012, Simon returned to the operational front-line when he was appointed Director of Lending Operations in Western Europe. Here, he was responsible for the EIB's business in Benelux, France, Ireland and the United Kingdom where combined lending activity totals some EUR 20 bn per year. Simon became Head of Advisory Services at the EIB on 1st January 2015.



Katrina Sichel

Moderator

With her broadcast and theatrical background, Katrina has more than 20 years' experience in communications as a TV producer, events' presenter and voiceover artist. A former Director of a London-based TV PR company, Katrina brought her skills to Brussels in 2007. Since then she has worked on many Europe-wide multimedia campaigns for the EU institutions covering different topics and policy areas. A moderator/host of debates, and award ceremonies, recent events include the EU Sustainable Energy Week Awards and REGIOSTARS Awards at Bozar; a high-level Carbon Emissions Trading Conference for the German Federal Ministry of the Environment; debates for the EWEA, Eurogas and METREX; DG ENV's Green Week and the Auroralia Awards (part of the world-renowned Lyon Light Festival). Katrina studied languages at Oxford University and speaks Russian, French and a (smattering of) German in addition to her native tongue.

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