

PRACTICAL SEMINAR
**ESI FUNDS 2014-2020: IMPROVING EFFICIENCY
OF VERIFICATIONS AND CONTROLS**



7 – 8 June, Warsaw, Poland

PROGRAMME OF THE TRAINING SEMINAR

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ABOUT THE SEMINAR

WE RECOMMEND THIS SEMINAR FOR:

- Managing Authorities, intermediate and other bodies performing management verifications in ESI funds 2014-2020
- National and regional authorities and administrations
- Audit Authorities
- External consultancy organisations performing management verifications

BENEFIT FOR PARTICIPANTS

Learn how to practically apply requirements of the new 'Guidance of Management Verifications'

Learn about and discuss with the practitioners the efficient administrative verifications and 'desk check'

Learn and exchange experience on how to increase efficiency of on-the-spot verifications

Discuss the practicalities of the public procurement verifications

Learn how to practically apply irregularities and financial corrections.

Management verifications and controls have been part of the EU fund system for several periods and are increasingly important to the successful implementation of the funds. Over time the controls have become formalised and in 2014-2020 ESI fund implementing bodies face a practical challenge to create and run an efficient verification and control system.

While the layout of the verification and control system in 2014-2020 might seem similar to the 2007-2013, the scope of tasks has expanded and focus has been put on the efficiency.

The content of the event was created together with experienced trainers who, apart from their day-to-day involvement in management and control, also have been providing a number of trainings in various EU Member States, as well as working together with the European Commission.

The content of the event is built around very practical experiences and case studies focusing on the most pressing challenges and day-to-day practicalities of verifications and controls, such as:

- How to effectively implement requirements of the new 'Guidance of Management Verifications'?
- What approaches can be taken to carry out resource and need analysis for units carrying out verification and controls?
- How to plan for administrative verifications and improve their efficiency?
- How to plan frequency and coverage of on-the-spot verifications proportionate to funding and to risk identified?
- How to carry out sampling for on-the-spot verifications (and during the on-the-spot visits)?
- How to deal with verifications after EU funding has been certified?
- How to treat errors found during the verifications and apply financial corrections?

In addition, participants will have the opportunity to discuss day-to-day issues and questions with speakers and other participants.

These and other topics will be covered during the Concordis.eu practical seminar "Improving verifications and controls in ESI funds 2014-2020" in 7 - 8 June, 2016 (Warsaw, Poland).

ABOUT THE TRAINERS



Mr GERARD DOHERTY

Gerard Doherty BA(Hons) ACMA has more than 22 years of experience in public and private sector external and internal audit. Since 2005 he has been an Audit Manager for the Audit Authority of ERDF within the Department of Public Expenditure Reform in Ireland. As part of his duties, he was jointly responsible for the design, preparation and implementation of the compliance assessment, audit strategy, annual programme of systems and operations audits and annual control report elements of the ERDF co-financed programme in Ireland for the 2007-2013 period, and is currently preparing for its closure. He was also closely involved in the 2000-2006 ERDF co-financed programmes, with a particular responsibility for the successful closure thereof. He is currently undertaking planning for the audit element of the 2014-2020 programme. He has lectured at numerous training sessions for the European Commission on audit issues, and has provided seminars in several member states in relation to various aspects of Structural Funds.

Mr ROBERT JAWOR

Since September 2003 has been working at the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship Office, which has been established as Intermediate Authority in the process of managing and certification structural funds on the regional level under Operational Programmes in years 2004-2006 and 2007-2013. A coordinator of works of Regional Group for Preventing Irregularities against National and European Union Budget.

Since 2007, an Expert by TAIEX DG Enlargement of the European Commission. Coach in new member countries and candidate countries mostly in the field of Public Procurement Law, Private Public Partnership, Internal Control and Audit. During the years 2002-2006 an university lecturer for EU structural funds, EU financial markets, public finances. Experience in preparing application forms and feasibility studies for EU projects. Since September 2012, a coach for Swiss Contribution Programme in Świętokrzyskie Region [coaching beneficiaries about the Programme and how to prepare application form and feasibility study, cooperation with Implementing Body in the field of Programme Documents]. Since 2014, manager of the regional project under Swiss Contribution.



Mr EDMUNDS SņIĶERIS

For most part of his career Edmunds Sņiķeris has been involved in the management and control of EU funds in various capacities, both from the control and implementation perspective. From 2008 to 2010 he served as the Deputy Director of Audit Department in the Ministry of Regional Development and Local Governments of the Republic of Latvia, involved in the EU fund audit and control issues on the daily basis. Since 2010 he has worked on the 'programme and project side' in international cross-border cooperation programmes (Latvia – Lithuania 2007-2014 programme; South Baltic 2014-2020 Programme), including being involved in set-up of the project monitoring system, as well as in day-to-day project monitoring. In addition, currently Edmunds Sņiķeris is part of the expert team in the project funded by the European Commission 'Technical Support to Implementation and Management of ENI-CBC Programmes (TESIM)', focusing on the audit and control issues.



Day 1, 7 June 2016

8.45-9.00	Registration, coffee
9.00 - 9.40	Welcome, introduction and expectations of participants
9.40 -10.30	New challenges for verifications and controls in 2014-2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Main shortcomings and advantages in the established management verification and control systems: lessons learned from 2007-2013■ Practical implications of new regulations and obligations in ESI Funds 2014-2020, including responsibilities and tasks for Managing Authorities / implementing bodies. How to translate the requirements into practice?■ Discussion round and Q/A session
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee break and networking
11.00 - 12.30	Running an effective management and verification system <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Detailed overview and practical application of new requirements stemming from 'Guidance of Management Verifications' for 2014-2020■ Importance of coherent and effective eligibility rules■ Delegation of management verifications – setting the requirements and gaining assurance that delegated functions are implemented in adequate quality■ Planning the workflow for the management verification – practical example of resource and need analysis for units carrying out verifications and controls■ Discussion round and Q/A session
12.30 - 13.30	Lunch break
13.30 - 15.00	Improving efficiency of administrative verifications <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Defining efficient and coherent methodology and objectives■ Planning the scope and timing of administrative verifications (desk checks)■ How to use sampling for desk checks?■ Treatment of material errors■ Importance of documenting the desk check■ Dealing with specific areas of verifications (state aid, revenues, durability, etc.)■ Group work – discussion in small groups on the practicalities of administrative verifications in the EU Member states. Each group will be asked to define three good practices and three things that could be improved in relation to administrative verifications and to present them to all the participants.■ Discussion round and Q/A session
15.00 - 15.30	Coffee break
15.30 - 17.00	Improving efficiency of on-the-spot verifications <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Which factors and risks have to be taken into account when planning intensity and coverage of on-the-spot verifications?■ Sampling for on the spot verifications (and during the on-the-spot)■ Documenting the on-the-spot report■ Specific areas of verifications (state aid, revenues, durability, etc..)■ Group work – discussion in small groups on the practicalities of on-the-spot verifications in the EU Member states. Each group will be asked to define three good practices and three things that could be improved in relation to on-the-spot verifications and to present them to all the participants.■ Discussion round and Q/A session

Day 2, 8 June 2016

9.00 -10.30

Verifying public procurement

- To which documents should the controller pay the biggest attention when performing a public procurement check?
- Practical experiences with verifying a successful delivery of the procured contract
- Treatment of overspending of procured contracts
- Group work – discussion in small groups on the practicalities of public procurement checks in the EU Member states. Each group will be asked to define three good practices and three things that could be improved in procurement verifications and to present them to all the participants.
- Discussion round and Q/A session

10.30 - 11.00

Coffee break

11.00 - 13.00

Irregularities and financial corrections

- Practical implications of 2014-2020 requirements for management of irregularities and financial corrections
- Minimising the risk of irregularities
- How to proceed with perceived irregularities?
- Financial corrections in practice
- Discussion round and Q/A session
- Group work – discussion in small groups on the application of financial corrections. Each group will receive a practical case and will be asked to justify the application of the financial verifications and to present it to all the participants.

Summary of the results of the workshop, expert and peer review

Conclusions from the seminar and final Q/A session

13.00 - 14.00

Farewell lunch

PRACTICALITIES

PROGRAMME

The programme will start on Tuesday, 7 June at 09:00 and will finish on Wednesday, 8 June, 13:00, 2016.

VENUE

The workshop will take place at the JM HOTEL 4* | WARSAW CENTER, ul. Grzybowska 45, 00-844 Warsaw www.jmhotels.pl/en

LANGUAGE

The workshop language is English.

PRICE

649 EUR (including all applicable taxes).

The price includes:

- Admission to the seminar
- Hand-out documents
- Seminar certificate, if fully attended
- Soft drinks, coffee/tea and lunch

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Concordis.eu has arranged the opportunity for booking at the Venue hotel. We have made a block booking at JM HOTEL ****. You will receive guidance for booking together with the confirmation of registration. Arrangements and payment is to be made directly and personally to the hotel. Please note that hotel reservations cannot be guaranteed. If you want to choose any other hotel, please feel free to do so!

MEALS

Lunch will be served at the restaurant of the venue hotel. Should you require a special menu (e.g. vegetarian, diabetic), please inform the seminar organiser so that this can be arranged.

REGISTRATION

Kindly complete the registration form and return it before 27 May, 2016 to Concordis.eu, Riga, Latvia, via electronic booking form available in: www.concordis.eu

Your name and address will be part of the Concordis.eu database for our mailing purposes only. If you do not wish to be included in our mailing database, notify us when making the registration.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation of registration will be sent via e-mail to the participants upon receipt of the completed registration form.

PAYMENT

Payment of the event fee should be done immediately upon receipt of invoice. Cancellations must be issued in writing. Cancellation by the participant is described in the Terms of Use (<http://www.concordis.eu/terms-of-use/>).

CANCELLATION POLICY

Concordis.eu has the right to change experts/speakers and to modify the event if and where necessary while sustaining the overall content of the event. Registered participants will be informed if the event is cancelled (for example, due to force majeure/problems at the venue/an insufficient number of participants/etc.). Event cancellation notice is issued no later than three (3) weeks before the date of the event.