

## AGENDA

### 12th Annual Conference of Competitiveness Operational Programmes Programme implementation at half time: 2017

18-19 of May, 2017  
Budapest, Hungary

#### Thursday, 18 May 2017

Moderator: **Adam Abdulwahab**, Programme Manager

European Commission, Directorate for Administrative Capacity Building and  
Programme Implementation II, DG REGIO

9.00 – 9.30	<b>Registration</b>
	<b>Welcome speech</b>
9.30 – 9.40	<b>Tamás Karsai</b> , Head of Managing Authority Ministry for National Economy, Hungary
	<b>Opening remarks</b>
9.40 – 9.50	<b>Andriana Sukova-Tosheva</b> , Director European Commission, Directorate for Investment, DG EMPL
9.50 – 10.00	<b>Thomas Bender</b> , Head of Unit European Commission, Directorate for Administrative Capacity Building and Programme Implementation II, DG REGIO
10.00 – 10.10	<b>Eszter Vitályos</b> , State Secretary for EU Development Projects Prime Minister's Office, Hungary
<b>Introduction of the Competitiveness OPs in the relevant countries, sharing the mid-term experiences with the 2014-20 programming period.</b>	
10.10 – 10.30	<b>Tomáš Novotný</b> , Vice Minister Section of EU Funds, Research, Development, Innovations and Investment Incentives, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Czech Republic
10.30 – 11:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>

11.00 – 11.20	<b>Nataša Kulakowski-Kramarić</b> , Assistant Minister Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts, Croatia
11.20 – 11.40	<b>Edmund Škorvaga</b> , Head of Unit Programming, Monitoring and Evaluation of EU Structural Funds, Ministry of Economy, Slovak Republic
11.40 – 12.00	<b>Madalina Istrate</b> Managing Authority of Regional Operational Programme, Ministry of Regional Development, Public Administration and European Funds, Romania
12.00 – 12.20	<b>Marcin Łata</b> , Director of Innovation and Development Department Ministry of Development, Head of Managing Authority, Poland
12.20 – 12.40	<b>Questions and Answers</b>
12.40 – 14.00	<b>Lunch</b>
14.00 – 14.20	<b>Kalin Marinov</b> , Deputy Director, Directorate General for European Funds for Competitiveness Ministry of Economy, Bulgaria
14.20 – 14.40	<b>Reiner Kneifel - Haverkamp</b> , Head of EU Funds Coordination, Internationalization Unit Ministry of Justice for European Affairs and Consumer Protection of Brandenburg
14.40 – 15.00	<b>Balázs Rákossy</b> , State Secretary for EU Funds Ministry for National Economy of Hungary
15.00 – 15.20	<b>Questions and Answers</b>
	<b>Closure of the first day</b>
15.20 – 15.30	<b>Adam Abdulwahab</b> , Programme Manager, European Commission, Directorate for Administrative Capacity Building and Programme Implementation II, DG REGIO

**Friday, 19 May 2017**

9.00 – 9.30	Registration		
9.30 – 11.30	Parallel panel discussions		
<b>Increasing role of financial instruments</b>	<b>Audit risk management in calls for proposals</b>	<b>Social dimension of competitiveness programmes – employment and training</b>	<b>SME 4.0 – role of SMEs in the Industry 4.0</b>
Section chair:  - <b>Reiner Kneifel-Haverkamp</b> (Ministry of Justice for European Affairs and Consumer Protection of Brandenburg)	Section chair:  - <b>Balázs Dencső</b> (DGAEF - Hungary)	Section chair:  - <b>Daniel Pitoňák</b> (Slovak Business Agency)	Section chair:  - <b>Petr Porák</b> (Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic)
Discussants:  - <b>Magdalena Pronobis</b> (Marshal Office of the Pomorskie Region, Poland)  - <b>Renata Adomavičienė</b> (Ministry of Economy, Lithuania)  - <b>Sanja Fiser</b> (Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts of Croatia)  - <b>Velina Popova</b> (Ministry of Economy)	Discussants:  - <b>Radka Bucilova</b> (Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic)  - <b>Sanda Hilgen</b> (Ministry of Research and Innovation, Intermediate Body for COP, Romania)  - <b>Peter Petrik</b> (European Commission DG REGIO)  - <b>Milán Kovács</b>	Discussants:  - <b>Jouni Ponnikas</b> (Regional Council of Kainuu, Finland)  - <b>Zoltán Balogh</b> (European Commission- DG EMPL)  - <b>Noémi Danajka</b> (Ministry for National Economy of Hungary)  - <b>Zsolt Ruzskai</b> (Ministry for National Economy of Hungary)	Discussants:  - <b>Agnieszka Krasicka</b> (European Commission DG REGIO)  - <b>Kerstin Koren</b> (Office of the Regional Government of Lower Austria)  - <b>Lyudmila Tozeva</b> (Ministry of Economy of Bulgaria)  <b>Francisco Nunes</b> (Managing Authority of OP for Competitiveness and Internationalisation, Portugal)

<p>of Bulgaria)</p> <p><b>- Adam Abdulwahab</b> (European Commission DG REGIO)</p> <p><b>- Doru Zafiu</b> (Ministry of Research and Innovation, Intermediate Body for COP, Romania)</p> <p><b>- Emil Pícha</b> (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic)</p>	<p>(European Commission- DG EMPL)</p> <p><b>- Csaba Novák</b> (Ministry for National Economy of Hungary)</p>		<p><b>- Gyula Pomázi</b> (Ministry for National Economy)</p>
11.30 – 12.00	Coffee break		
12.00 – 12.40	Summary reports by the session moderators		
12.40 – 12.50	<p>Summary, <b>Adam Abdulwahab</b></p> <p>European Commission, Directorate for Administrative Capacity Building and Programme Implementation II, DG REGIO</p>		
12.50 – 14.00	Lunch		

## **Section topics to be discussed:**

### **1. Increasing role of Financial Instruments**

- Please introduce us the institutional structure you set up for implementing financial instruments.
- Please share with us some information about your process setting up FIs: how did you cope with public procurement in order to select fund managers and financial intermediaries? What kind of products do you have (loan, guarantees, venture capital, combined products)?
- What is the state of play of implementation of the 2014-20 financial instruments in your country/region? How many products have you launched? Which is your most successful product so far? What kind of results have you reached?
- Do you consider combining FIs with grants? If so, combination in a single FI measure or as two separate measures? In what areas do you consider such combinations? What body will provide the grant component when combined in a single FI measure (MA/fund manager)? What body will provide the grant when combined as two separate measures (fund manager acting as intermediate body for grants/MA)?
- Do you have a single monitoring and information system for Structural Funds? What kind of IT system do you have for financial instruments? How does the IT system back up the combined products you have? Do you have a one-stop-shop system in the process in order to make procedures more transparent for applicants?
- Which do you think the most important issues are that need to be clarified in order to make the implementation smoother?
- What measures have you taken/are planning to take to raise awareness of the non-grant support? Are there centrally managed campaigns?
- What are the main obstacles/challenges your MAs face in FIs implementation / preparation of FIs implementation?

## **2. Audit risk management in calls for proposals**

- What are the first experiences of the implementation of the new programming period?
- What is right frequency of management verifications balancing between control costs and risk handling?
- How do you get assurance on the reliance of performance indicators to be introduced into the IT system?
- How do you control/audit compliance with market price? At which stages of the process (project selection, payment claims etc.) are verifications done?
- How widespread are Simplified Cost Options?
- How do you evaluate the "success" of R&D&I projects?

## **3. Social dimension of competitiveness programmes – employment and training**

- Social dimension of competitiveness programmes: In your opinion what are the most important social dimensions that a competitiveness programme must deal with?
- SME training: In the field of supporting trainings for employees of SMEs, what are the most important areas that need improvement in your opinion? Do you combine technological development and trainings? Do you combine ERDF and ESF funds in any form?
- Developing entrepreneurial attitudes and skills: Importance of vocational education in developing an entrepreneurial attitude and business skills. Do you have any national or EU funded programme for developing entrepreneurial attitude especially in public education? What is your experience on it?
- Job creation vs raising productivity and competitiveness by production automation: Shortage of qualified professionals and high rate of long term unemployment among the low-skilled workforce with lower educational level are simultaneously present in Europe's economy. Production automation can be an answer to raising competitiveness but not necessarily to job creation. If you face this problem, what kind of measures do you use in your OP to manage this issue?
- Social enterprises: Experiences on promoting social enterprises, which type of mentoring services do you provide for start-up social enterprises?; In your country/region do you

have experience on combined use of ESF with financial instruments or ERDF for social enterprises?

- Work-life balance: How to develop services and implement innovative practices to ensure work-life balance?
- Flexible employment: What type of good practices do you promote in your programmes on flexible employment?; In your view what can be the contribution of flexible employment to SME development?
- Youth entrepreneurship: How do you support youth entrepreneurship, do you have any dedicated programme for this target group? What is your experience on Youth Guarantee scheme and use of Youth Employment Initiative? Do you use financial instruments to promote youth entrepreneurship? Do you combine ESF and financial instruments for employment promotion?

#### **4. SME 4.0 – role of SMEs in Industry 4.0**

- From your aspect what does Industry 4.0 really mean? Why it is that Industry 4.0 is creating such interest?
- In your opinion what are the main role and tools of the public sector that can help SMEs' transition to Industry 4.0? Does the Operational Programme that you deal with help the transition of SMEs in using Industry 4.0 solutions?
- If yes, what are the most important tools you use to provide incentives to SMEs in your country/region? What are the most important areas at SME level which need to be improved so that SMEs be able to exploit the advantages of Industry 4.0? If not, what could be done?
- Support of Industry 4.0 and state aid.
- Is your organisation's personnel prepared well to deal with project proposals submitted in subjects in or related to Industry 4.0? Do you think such project proposals require any special skills from the MA/IB staff side (like knowledge of the fields ICT, digitalisation)?
- If you have dedicated programmes for this purpose do you use any focus points, specialisation (e.g. sector, size) at the call for proposals aimed at supporting SMEs in this field or do you use a horizontal approach?

- What does digitalization entail for manufacturing? Do you think that there are other sectors/ segments where Industry 4.0 can be applicable? In your viewpoint can the Industry 4.0 be interpreted at company level or it must be applied in the whole value chain of the product/service provided by the given company?
- At applying Industry 4.0 solutions what can be the short-term business opportunities at company level according to your experience?