

The Secrets of Absorption of EU funds

*Getting all the tips and good practices to foster spendings
in a Simple and Secure way*

25-27 September 2024

Roma

The Secrets of Absorption of EU funds

Getting all the tips and good practices to foster spendings in a simple and secure way

■ Learning objective

- Making quick wins for better absorption and payment
- Keeping the control on the risks and error rate
- Shifting from spendings to investment and value for money approach

■ Learning points

- To create fast lanes and ready-to-use schemes
- To focus on the key issues to ensure the annual closure of operations and programme
- To tackle in concrete the identification of generic / specific risks
- To reduce the burdens at all stages (from application to verification through contracting)
- To introduce and reinforce the use of SCOs in a secure way
- To set up a full action plan of mitigation actions / corrections
- To integrate financial and territorial instruments
- To improve on-the-spot checks and data collection with beneficiaries
- To ensure full reporting to EC about performance and absorption

■ Special points

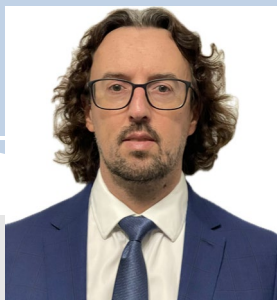
- Specific attention to Appraisal and Ex-ante analysis of projects
- Lecture, practical examples
- Case studies
- Templates to be used directly after the training



Franck Sottou

Senior International Management and Control Expert

- Key international Expert
 - Management and control systems
 - Indicators and performance measurement (data collection)
 - Simplification and economic, social and environmental strategies
- Former Head of TA Team
 - Programming, negotiations with EC, management & control systems
- Trainer and Consultant for European Institutions, Managing and Certifying Authorities, IB and Implementing Agencies
- Currently working for Member States for technical assistance
 - Design of logframes and selection of indicators
 - Calculation and implementation of SCOs
 - Recommendations about simplification and efficiency of systems



Sarunas BRUZGE

Economist, Infrastructure Project Preparation/Evaluation Expert

- Economist at the European Investment Bank
- Cost-Benefit Analysis specialist, Co-author of Economic Appraisal Vademecum 2021-2027
- Guest Lecturer at the University of Luxembourg, College of Europe, Natolin (Poland)
- Over 20 years experience working with the EU financial support mechanisms
- More than 15 years experience in preparation of investment projects and Cost-Benefit Analysis
- More than 10 years experience in evaluation of infrastructure projects
- Green Energy Transition and Just Transition specialist, coordinating joint technical assistance instruments (EIB and EC).

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DAY 1: Getting ready for Absorption

Registration

9.00 to 9.30am

Morning session

9.30am to 12.30pm

10:30 Break

Step 1: Introduction and overview

- Finances implemented : overspendings, where is the limit?
- Key achievements : use of outputs and results indicators
- Review of Administrative burdens
- Review of Technical burdens
- Review of Financial burdens
- Responsibilities on the beneficiary side
- Responsibilities on the Authorities side

Lunch from 12:30pm to 2:00pm

Afternoon session

2.00pm to 4.30pm

15:30 Break

Step 2 : The quick wins of Absorption

- Large infrastructures, strategic projects and soft measures : the right mix?
- Fast tracks procedures
- CLLD and ITI : the correct use of territorial instruments
- The possible integration of financial instruments and grant packages

Step 3 : Specific and sensitive issues

- Non-functioning projects
- Phasing out
- Reporting on outputs and results
- Non eligible projects and expenditures

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DAY 2: Keeping it Secure and Simple

Morning session

9.00am to 12.30pm

10:30 Break

Step 4: Review of Errors irregularities and Risks mitigation

- Main irregularities in accounting 2014-2020 and from 2021
- The new risk management and sampling of expenditures within Payment claims
- Making more responsible beneficiaries : self-assessment tools
- Linking ex-ante and ex-post checks
- Contract of Grant Offer Letter?
- Commitments and decommitments
- Separation of duties and tasks : from 10 to 5 steps
- Risk appetite and collection of data for RBMV

Lunch from 12:30pm to 2:00pm

Afternoon session

2.00pm to 4.30pm

15:30 Break

Step 5 : New challenges related to SCOs and FLNC

- Respect of methodologies
- Specific checks on payment conditions
- Contract changes
- Overview of the new EC guidance

Step 6 : Specific risks and simplification

- Double financing
- Conflict of interest
- Public procurement
- State aid

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DAY 3: Moving from Absorption to Investment

Morning session

9.00am to 12.30pm

10:30 Break

Step 7: the CBA approach to make better investment

- CBA technical, financial and economic analysis
- Scoring and Ranking of Projects
- Climate change dimension and Just Transition model
- Risks and management of Schedules
- Value for Money and Sustainability

Lunch from 12:30pm to 2:00pm

Afternoon session

2.00pm to 4.30pm

15:30 Break

Step 8 : the key issues and final

- Activities in the last audit cycle
- Calculation of TER
- Additional audit procedures:
 - ✓ Testing the closure of operations
 - ✓ Testing the achievement of indicators
 - ✓ Testing the phased operations
 - ✓ Testing the non-functioning operations
- Treatment of irregularities in the final accounting year
- Special activities for closure of financial instruments
- Additional disclosures in the Annual Control Report

Final key points & Action Plan

Closure and Risks management

Organising the closure in an efficient manner and preparing risk-based verification methodology

Days	Total net amount €	Discounts	Including
Face-to-face			
3-day	1 435,00	15% early registration (up to 2 months before the event) ; 10% for 2 or more participants from the same institution	Training material, breaks, lunches, full access to ETCP platform and quizzes, certificate of qualification
discounted 10%	1 291,50		
discounted 15%	1219,75		

VAT Exempt art. 132 of Directive n° 2006/112/EC