



# Advisory services from *fi-compass* about financial instruments

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## Factsheet

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An online course (MOOC) for regional and local authorities

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The *fi-compass* advisory service is provided by the European Commission in partnership with the European Investment Bank Group. *fi-compass* advisory services focus on financial instruments under the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and microfinance under the Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI).

*fi-compass* is designed to support ESIF managing authorities, EaSI microfinance providers and other interested parties, by providing practical knowhow and learning tools on financial instruments. These include 'how-to' manuals, factsheets and case study publications, as well as face-to-face training seminars, networking events, and video information.

### ESIF financial instruments

Financial instruments co-funded by ESIF can be an efficient way to **invest in the growth and development of people and businesses across the European Union**. They can be set up by Member States and regions to invest ESIF resources through financial products such as loans, guarantees, equity and other risk-bearing mechanisms that support projects on the ground.

*fi-compass* offers general information, practical tools and learning opportunities that guide managing authorities and other ESIF stakeholders step-by-step through the life cycle of ESIF financial instruments. Specific advice is offered also on the use of financial instruments under each ESI Fund. These are the [European Regional Development Fund \(ERDF\)](#), the [European Social Fund \(ESF\)](#), the

[Cohesion Fund \(CF\)](#), the [European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development \(EAFRD\)](#), and the [European Maritime and Fisheries Fund \(EMFF\)](#).

### EaSI Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship

EaSI Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship is part of the Employment and Social Innovation Programme. It aims to **increase the accessibility of finance for vulnerable groups, start-ups, micro- and social enterprises**.

*fi-compass* offers to selected microcredit providers an institutional assessment or a microfinance institutional rating and targeted capacity building through tailored trainings. In addition, it organises workshops, seminars and exchange visits between microcredit providers and operates a dedicated helpdesk in order to spread good practice in the wider European microcredit sector. Further *fi-compass* advice offers trainings and evaluations of compliance to non-bank microcredit providers that have signed up to the Code of Good Conduct for Microcredit Provision. These *fi-compass* services are provided through [EaSI Technical Assistance \(EaSI TA\)](#).



## Advisory services from *fi-compass*

The *fi-compass* website ([www.fi-compass.eu](http://www.fi-compass.eu)) hosts a [resource library of advisory tools](#) about ESIF financial instruments. The website is also a key information and registration tool for [fi-compass and EaSI TA events](#). Other useful capacity building services available from the *fi-compass* website include:

- [Methodological handbooks](#) provide step-by-step approaches to the mandatory ex-ante assessments required for ESIF financial instruments. These cover different ESIF thematic objectives as well as specialised advice for agricultural managing authorities.
- [Factsheets](#) feature advice on numerous topics such as descriptions of different types of financial instruments, and action plans for the full life cycle of an ESIF financial instrument. Other *fi-compass* factsheets explain the scope for financial instruments in sectors such as the social economy or fisheries.
- [Case study publications](#) highlight success stories from financial instruments across the EU. These

cover the ESIF Funds and include descriptions of the implementation structures for different types of revolving funds targeting different types of socio-economic and environmental policy areas. Lessons learnt, results, and financial information amongst others are also included in the *fi-compass* case studies.

- [EC regulatory guidance](#) notes explain how to apply the EU rules relevant to financial instruments. The Commission guidance aims to facilitate programme implementation and to encourage good practice.
- [Event materials](#) include comprehensive material from each *fi-compass* event, such as presentation slides, and recordings of speeches, as well as video interviews with experts and participants.
- [News](#) about ESIF financial instruments keeps subscribers informed about developments concerning ESIF financial instruments.
- [Video tutorials](#) are available through the website and on social media. These short films include learning information about financial instruments. Experiences and advice from financial instrument practitioners is also available via short video interviews.

You can stay up to date with advice and information from *fi-compass* about ESIF financial instruments by:

- [Subscribing to the fi-compass newsletter](#)
- [Joining fi-compass on LinkedIn](#)
- [Following fi-compass on Twitter](#)

For more information about *fi-compass*:

- [A sustainable way of achieving EU economic and social objectives: Financial instruments](#)

- [Developing an action plan: Design, set-up, implementation and winding-up of financial instruments](#)
- [Financial Instrument products: Loans, guarantees, equity and quasi-equity](#)
- [Case studies:](#)
  - [London Green Fund](#)
  - [Urban Development Fund Pomorskei Poland](#)

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