



Fit for recovery and transition: Supporting Quality of Public Administration in the European Union Member States

Building capacity in regional and local administrations

The administrations at regional and local level have a specific role in the attainment of EU policies. Public administrations at national, regional and local level are the ones that deliver crisis response, provide services, implement reforms, manage investments and, more generally, manage public spending to create expected social value. They are involved in the implementation of an important part of the EU budget as they implement 70% of all EU legislation, 70% of climate mitigation measures, 90% of climate adaptation policies and 65% of the SDGs. At the same time, most administrative reforms address mainly the needs of the central administration.

The workshop will discuss targeted approaches to improve capacity and capabilities at regional and local level to establish high quality and modern management.

Agenda

14h30 – 14h35

Welcome

Stefan APPEL, Head of Unit Administrative Capacity Building and Solidarity Instruments, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

14h35 – 14h45

Why it is important to have an overall good quality of public administration

Alina TATARENKO, Head of the Democratic Governance Division, Directorate General of Democracy, Council of Europe

How can the Council of Europe support public administration reforms in Member States, including recommendations, tools, and projects in the area of good democratic governance.

14h45 – 14h55

The benefits of building strong local administrations in the context of EU funds

Stefan APPEL, Head of Unit Administrative Capacity Building and Solidarity Instruments, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy - DG REGIO, European Commission

Over several decades, Cohesion Policy has been the key investment tool of the EU but experience shows that Member States and regions with weak institutions have significant problems absorbing available EU Funds and using them in the best way. It is therefore of utmost importance for public administrations at any governance level to have the administrative capacity to effectively manage the Funds and thereby to contribute to the implementation of EU cohesion policy and achievement of its objectives.





14h55 – 15h05

Support to regional and local administrations through the Technical Support Instrument

Milena RAYKOVSKA, Deputy Head of Unit Sustainable Growth & Business Environment, Directorate General for Structural Reform Support – DG REFORM, European Commission

15h05 – 15h15

The Technical Support Instrument and Italy's structural reforms pathway

Piero RUBINO, Cohesion Department Appraisal Unit

Italy's economy is hindered by a kind of "twin weakness", namely a long-standing decline in public investment coupled with a persistent downfall in public employment over the last decade, particularly at the local level where the budget cuts hit more harshly, which significantly hampered the quality of the public spending. The DG REFORM project assisted Italy to enhance the implementation of National and Regional Operational Programmes, strengthening administrative capacities at national, regional and local levels to programme, coordinate and implement regional and cohesion policy along with other policy initiatives. Italy is now called upon to deliver and implement several structural reforms embodied in the Recovery and Resilience Plan.

15h15 – 15h30

Q&As

Speakers



Stefan Appel is since 2018 Head of Unit for Administrative Capacity Building and Solidarity Instruments in the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) of the European Commission. Before that he was Head of Unit Financial Instruments and IFI coordination since 2014. He joined the European Commission in 1997 and started in DG ECFIN, where he also held positions of responsibility. Before joining the European Commission he worked in the private and public sector in Germany. He is a graduate in Economics from the Universities of Hohenheim and Munich. He is married and has children.





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Alina Tatarenko is the Head of the [Democratic Governance Division](#) of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France. She is in charge of the CDDG - European Committee on Democracy and Governance, and of the CEGG - Centre of Expertise for Good Governance. The Committee develops European standards, while the Centre of Expertise provides capacity-building programmes and policy advice to the member states, in order to support governance reforms. Alina has been working for the Council of Europe for almost 20 years. She has degrees in History, Political Science, and International Relations from the universities in Ukraine, Hungary, and the UK.

Milena Raykovska is Deputy Head of Unit Sustainable Growth & Business Environment of DG REFORM in the European Commission.

She joined the European Commission in 2004 and worked in the Joint Research Centre (JRC), responsible for relations with the EU Member States at the Interinstitutional and Stakeholder Relations Directorate. Previously she worked in the management consulting sector, including in the Bulgarian Association of Management Consulting Companies.

Her university education combines an MBA from University of National and International Economy, Sofia as well as a Master's in sustainable development from University of Ljubljana.





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Piero Rubino graduated in Economics at the LUISS "Guido Carli" in 1980 and carried on his economic studies at the Universities of Southampton and Oxford in the UK.

He has been involved in economic analysis since the early eighties, working on macro issues at ISAE (then ISCO), the Research Department of Bank of Italy and the Energy Regulator (today's ARERA, then Aeeeg). He was then associated with the CIPE Unit for the Implementation and Regulation of Public Utility Services (NARS), and with the Innovation Agency of the Apulia Region (ARTI). He has recently started collaborating with the Scuola Nazionale dell'Amministrazione (SNA) on sustainable development dissemination projects.

He has been a member of the Appraisal Unit (NUVAP) of the Territorial Cohesion Department within the Presidency of the Council of Ministers since 2002 where he is seen as an expert on infrastructure, environment and energy projects.

His interests mainly dwell on regulatory, transport, energy and environmental economics, project appraisal through financial and cost-benefit analysis, mitigation of catastrophic risk, structural problems of the Italian economy and public finance issues on which he has published in professional journals and books.

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He regularly takes part in working groups on these issues within AREL, ASTRID and SIPOTRÀ. He has occasionally lectured at the Urbino (Carlo Bo), Naples (Federico II), Bologna (Alma Mater Studiorum) and Rome (Roma TRE and Tor Vergata) Universities

