



1st Meeting of the Network of the Heads of Managing Authorities

Agenda

19:00 – 21:00 Networking event & dinner (24 April 2024)

A welcome reception will be offered by the European Commission the day before the Conference, on 24 April from 19h00 to 21h00 at the Musée Belvue, Pl. des Palais 7, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgique

**April 25 2024, CHARLEMAGNE, European Commission building,
Rue de la Loi 170, Brussels**

08:30 – 09:00

Registrations, coffee and networking

09:00 – 09:15

Opening and welcome

Welcome and opening remarks by **Nicola de Michelis**, Acting Deputy Director-General for DG Regional and Urban Policy

09:15 – 10:30

LAUNCH: Navigating tomorrow – Leadership strategies for Cohesion Policy

This session marks the launch of the Heads of Managing Authorities (MAs) network. Focused on the evolving world of work and its impact on Cohesion policy, the keynote address will explore megatrends shaping public governance. Attendees can expect insights into adapting policy frameworks and administrative capacity-building models to technological shifts, demographic changes, and environmental challenges.

This session will include a keynote presentation from:

Daniel Gerson, Head of Public Employment and Management, Public Governance Directorate, OECD

It will also include presentations from the following speakers:

Pernille von Lillienkjold, Head of Division, Head of the Managing Authority for ESF+, ERDF and JTF, Danish Business Authority, Denmark

Aulak Maciej, Head of Department, Department of Assistance Programmes, Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy, Poland

All sessions will be moderated by the OECD and DG Regio:

Dónal Mulligan, Analyst, Public Employment and Management, Public Governance Directorate, OECD

Stefan APPEL, Head of Unit, Administrative Capacity Building and Solidarity Instruments, DG REGIO

Participants will be asked to respond to the following questions:

- What are you most hoping to get out of the Network of the Heads of Managing Authorities?
- What are you most hoping to get out of the launch event today?
- What are the biggest or most pressing challenges your MA is facing?
- What else would you like to share or hear about either today or in future Network meetings?

10:30 – 10:45 BREAK

10:45 – 12:30

INSPIRE: Leaders on the front lines – problem solving and anticipation

This session spotlights pioneering approaches tackling strategic hurdles encountered by Managing Authorities (MAs) throughout the EU. MA heads will share innovative practices developed to bolster Cohesion policy capacity. Engaging in small discussion groups, participants will delve into the intricacies of these practices, dissecting their adaptability and scalability across diverse contexts. Through these exchanges, attendees will be inspired to navigate the complex landscape of EU Cohesion policy, fostering collaboration, and driving impactful change.

The session will include presentations from the following speakers:

Daniela Ferrara, Responsible for the Coordination of ERDF and ESF Funds, Emilia-Romagna region, Italy

Urmo Merila, Deputy Director General, State Shared Service Centre, Estonia

Georgina Scicluna, Director General, Planning & Priorities Coordination Division, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry for European Funds, Equality, Reforms and Social Dialogue, Malta

Rui Paz, Financial/Economic Analysis and State Aid Center, Managing Authority of Sustentável programme, Portugal (tbc)

Primary respondents in this session will include:

Radana Leistner Kratochvílová, Department Director, Department of Support for a Low-Carbon Economy, Ministry of the Environment, Czechia

Participants will be asked to reflect on their own experiences and react to the following questions:

- What are you most proud of accomplishing in your MA over the past 5 years?
- What innovative solution(s) have you tried to address challenges facing your MA? Was it successful? Why or why not?
- What other new ideas do you have for your MA? What roadblocks are you facing that prevent you from implementing these ideas?

12:30 – 14:00 NETWORKING LUNCH BREAK

14:00 – 15:30

ENGAGE: Building connections and the basis for exchange

This session will be structured to facilitate exchange among participants to discuss common needs and challenges, as well as identify promising tools and practices that can be implemented to support MA leaders. This session will also discuss next steps, prioritise areas that could be the subject of future exchanges through the network, and reflect on how the Network can best support MA leaders.

15:30 Closing

Closing remarks from **Sofia Alves**, Director, Administrative Capacity Building and Programmes Implementation II, DG for Regional and Urban Policy