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INVITATION

National Convention on European Integration

Working Group IV (Structural Funds)

Session 4, Topic: Procurement rules under regional development programs

07 June 2021, 10:00 – 11:30

Online Activity in ZOOM

European Movement in Albania (EMA) and the Albanian Development Fund (ADF) in partnership with Slovak Foreign Policy Association and financial support of Slovak Aid, have the pleasure to invite you on the Session 4 of Working Group IV: “Procurement rules under regional development programs”.

In order to create a bridge of cooperation between state institutions and civil society and at the same time to strengthen the capacities in both sectors, the National Convention on European Integration 2019-2021, implemented by the European Movement in Albania in cooperation with line Ministries and other public institutions, is restored, after the successful implementation during 2014-2016.

The NCEI represents an initiative that aims to institutionalize public debate on European Union issues, based on the partnership between government and public institutions, civil society and business organizations; to strengthen the skills of experts in negotiations related to European Integration; to transfer the Slovak experience in the field of building democratic institutions and permanent professional dialogue. Initially, this unique model was successfully applied and developed by the Slovak Foreign Policy Association during 2003-2007 and then implemented in Serbia, B&H, Montenegro, North Macedonia.

In the framework of the NCEI in Albania, several Working Groups have been set up according to the chapters of negotiations with the EU: **WG I: Judiciary and Fundamental Rights** (Chapter 23); **WG II: Justice, Freedom, Security** (Chapter 24); **WG III: Agriculture and Consumer Protection** (Chapters 11, 12 and 28); **WG IV: Structural Funds** (Chapter 22); **WG V: Trade and Economic Affairs** (Four Freedoms and Chapter 20)

The WG IV, thanks to the experiences of experts, is assessing issues related with process of implementation of IPA national programme and management of EU funds by Albania; negotiations with EU on chapter 22; topics on programming and implementing of the financial programmes with peculiar attention to national and regional level. In this WG **four sessions** are being organized. These sessions are being co-chaired by representatives from the Albanian Development Fund and internal experts of NCEI.

Session 4, which is the final session of the WG IV is focused on public procurement procedures - how system works and what happens when a problem is identified and also on the functioning of electronic purchasing system.

**Here are the details to join the meeting on ZOOM:*

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82349527280?pwd=TjN6V25GSWNqb0JlExZTGJUOFFGUT09>

Meeting ID: 823 4952 7280

Passcode: Emaconv

PROGRAMME

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09:45- 10:00 **Online Registration of participants**

- *Orientation on logistical issues to attend and to be engaged on the activity online*

10:00 – 10:10 **Welcome Speech**

Mr. Ermal Ilirjani, Head of Programming Unit

Mr. Florian Xhafa, Member of the Board of Directors of EMA

10:10 – 10:20 **Follow up of all sessions organized under WG IV**

Mr. Gledis Gjipali, Executive Director, European Movement Albania

10:20 – 11:00 **Procurement rules under regional development programs**

Mr. Vladimír Benč, Regional Coordinator, Catching up Regions Initiative, World Bank

- *Public procurement procedures - how it works*
- *Control of public procurement in ESF and control from the Single Public Procurement Authority*
- *Procedures for public procurement: applicant's point of view vs Management Authority/intermediate body*
- *Electronic purchasing system - Slovakia's experience*

11:00 – 11:30 **Open Discussion with participants**

- *Providing conclusions and recommendations*