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## INVITATION

### National Convention on European Integration

#### Working Group IV (Regional Policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments)

#### Session 2, Topic: Management and Implementation bodies of EU funding programmes

18 January 2021, 15:00 -16:00

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 2 of Working Group IV: "Management and Implementation bodies of EU funding programmes". With the main aim on establishing bridges of cooperation and communication among public institutions and civil society actors, while strengthening their capacities, the National Convention on European Integration is returned to be implemented in Albania for the period 2019-2021, after a successful implementation by EMA in partnership with line ministries for the period 2014-2016.

National Convention on European Integration is a platform which aims **to institutionalize the public debate in EU related issues based on the partnership of governmental, non-governmental and business organizations; to strengthen the expert capacities on negotiations on EU Integration; and to transfer the Slovak know-how in the field of democratic institutions building and permanent expert dialogue.** Firstly, this unique model has been developed by the Slovak Foreign Policy Association and extended through the support of Slovakia's bilateral development assistance (Slovak Aid) in Albania, Serbia, B&H, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Ukraine and Moldova.

There are formed 4 Working Groups whose topics are directly related to EU integration process and EU Acquis chapters: **WG 1: Judiciary and Human Rights** (Chapter 23); **WG 2: Justice, Freedom, Security** (Chapter 24); **WG 3: Agriculture and Food Safety** (Chapter 11&12); **WG 4: Regional Policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments** (Chapter 22) and involve participants from state institutions, civil society sectors, International organizations and interest groups.

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 planned to be co-chaired by representatives from the Albanian Development Fund and internal experts of NCEI. Each session aims to gather 25-30 representatives from State Institutions, NGOs, private sector and academia focused on topics related with Chapter 22 of EU Acquis. Participation of such actors is of utmost relevance in order to provide recommendations and suggestions concerning the topic discussed and issues related with legal framework; institutional capacity and tackling the issues. Session 2 of the WG IV is focused on the functioning of the managing, contracting bodies and how the policy-making process is linked with programming.

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

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82133749415?pwd=NUVldVpSRXVrNEF6L2ZnaUd6ZDlrdz09>

Meeting ID: 821 3374 9415

Passcode: Emaconv

*\*Simultaneous interpretation will be provided*

## PROGRAMME

### National Convention on European Integration

#### Working Group IV (Regional Policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments)

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- 14:45-15:00** **Online Registration of participants**  
*- Orientation on logistical issues to attend and to be engaged on the activity online*
- 15:00-15:10** **Follow up of the first session of WG IV**  
**Mr. Ermal Ilirjani**, Head of Programming Unit  
**Mr. Gledis Gjipali**, Executive Director of European Movement Albania
- 15:10-15:25** **First glance of IPA III**  
**Mr. Florian Xhafa**, National Expert of National Convention on European Integration (NCEI)
- 15:25-15:45** **Management and Implementation bodies of funding programmes – EU and Slovakia case**  
**Mr. Vladimír Benč**, Expert on the EU funding programmes, Project Manager and Evaluator
- Organisation and functioning of a managing authority*
  - Organisation and functioning of an intermediate body*
  - Links between policy making and programming*
  - Functions and procedures of contracting authority*
- 15:45-16:00** **Open Discussion with participants**  
Providing conclusions and recommendations