

Implemented by:



INVITATION

National Convention on European Integration

Working Group IV (Structural Funds)

Session 3, Topic: Intermediary bodies and their role in implementation of regional development programs

25 May 2021, 11:00 -12:30

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 3 of Working Group IV: *“Intermediary bodies and their role in implementation of 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 planned to be co-chaired by representatives from the Albanian Development Fund and internal experts of NCEI.

Session 3 of the WG IV is focused on the functioning of intermediary bodies, their role on implementing regional development programs and assessment of the models and which one to follow for the managing authority in Albania, based on Slovak experience.

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

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82349527280?pwd=TjN6V25GSWNqb0JldExZTGJUOFFGUT09>

Meeting ID: 823 4952 7280

Passcode: Emaconv

**Simultaneous interpretation will be provided*

PROGRAMME

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Online Activity in ZOOM

10:45 - 11:00 Online Registration of participants

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

11:00 - 11:05 Opening of the activity

Ms. Nirvana Deliu, Policy Researcher, European Movement Albania

11:05 - 11:20 Welcome Speech

Mr. Ermal Ilirjani, Head of Programming Unit

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

11:20 - 12:00 Intermediary bodies and their role in implementation of regional development programs

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

- *the functioning of intermediary bodies*
- *their role on implementing regional development programs*
- *assessment of the models based on Slovak experience*

12:00 - 12:30 Open Discussion with participants

- *Providing conclusions and recommendations*