



## **JASPERS Networking Platform**

### **Webinar on**

### **Good Practices and key lessons learned in Project Assessment and Selection**

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**Date:** 18 October 2024, from 13:30 to 16:30 CET

**Location:** Virtual meeting - WebEx Events

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The JASPERS Networking Platform was created to complement JASPERS project advisory operations by implementing knowledge sharing and technical capacity building activities, as well as fostering dissemination of good practices and exchange of experiences among all EU member states, pre-accession countries and other JASPERS Stakeholders.

More information is available at <https://jaspers.eib.org/knowledge/index>

### **Description of the Webinar**

#### **Context:**

Enhancing the efficacy of project assessment and selection by Managing Authorities (MAs) is crucial for achieving successful outcomes. Throughout the 2014-2020 programming period, project selection and appraisal operated primarily within a decentralized national framework, overseen by MAs in collaboration with Intermediate Bodies (IBs) as outlined in the national Control and Management Systems. Regulatory compliance, project quality control, and funding decisions for Major Projects were reviewed by the European Commission with the support of JASPERS Independent Quality Review (IQR).

JASPERS also provided extensive technical capacity-building support both through its Networking Platform and through dedicated in-country assignments on subjects relevant to project appraisal, such as Cost-benefit Analysis, Climate Proofing, and Environmental Considerations. This partnership, supported by upstream assistance from JASPERS Advisory, facilitated the establishment of a robust pipeline comprising the most significant projects under the Cohesion Policy.

Transitioning into the 2021-2027 period, the approach to project selection and appraisal at the national level builds on the 2014-2020 experience. Most project selection and appraisal duties remain the responsibility of MAs and/or IBs. However, with the discontinuation of the major project concept at the EU level, all projects, irrespective of size, now undergo appraisal, review, and approval exclusively at the national level.

For the 2021-2027 programming period, Articles 40 and 73 of the Common Provision Regulation (CPR) outline various requirements mandating MAs to adopt rigorous methods and criteria. MAs must also ensure sufficient capacity for assessing, selecting, supporting the preparation, and timely implementation of all investment proposals, including larger projects. This marks a significant shift in responsibilities from the EU to Member States compared to the previous programming period.

Furthermore, the new CPR has introduced additional prerequisites for project selection, such as climate proofing and adherence to the "do no significant harm (DNSH)" principle.



National entities have limited familiarity and capacity regarding some of these novel requirements and have sought JASPERS' assistance to strengthen their technical capacity.

As a result, project assessment and selection have been identified by MAs as significant challenges for the successful implementation of programs and funds during the 2021-2027 programming period. Several Member States, including Bulgaria, Croatia, and Slovenia, have sought JASPERS' assistance in establishing sound project assessment systems at the national level, with dedicated country assignments included in Country Work Programmes.

### **Webinar Objective:**

Starting with an overview of the requirements delineated in the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR), the proposed webinar will showcase JASPERS' expertise and experience in supporting project selection and appraisal throughout the 2014-2020 period, highlighting pertinent lessons learned. The webinar will delve into essential principles for project assessment and selection, emphasizing their relevance and importance for the 2021-2027 programming period. Conducted in English, this interactive session will provide participants with opportunities for insightful Q&A sessions, fostering a deeper understanding of the need for additional methodological and technical capacity-building support.

The primary objective of this webinar is to initiate an open dialogue with Managing Authorities (MAs) and other relevant stakeholders, aiming to gain valuable insights into their needs for potential further support on subjects relevant to project preparation and selection. Additionally, it will serve as a platform to discuss forthcoming, targeted technical capacity-building activities designed to strengthen their capabilities for the 2021-2027 programming period.

Post-webinar, JASPERS will aim to:

- Gain a more detailed understanding of the anticipated demand for technical capacity building (including methodological guidelines, checklists, case studies, etc.) pertaining to project assessment and selection for the 2021-2027 period.
- Define and organize additional seminars/webinars (e.g., sector-specific or focusing on more specific methodological issues) planned for delivery in 2024 and beyond.

## **AGENDA**

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| 13:30 – 13:35 | <b>Welcome and introduction</b><br>Massimo Marra, Principal Advisor, Capacity Building Coordinator, EIB Advisory/JASPERS   |
| 13:40 – 14:00 | <b>Opening remarks</b><br><b>EIB - JASPERS support to project assessment and selection</b><br>Luis Hebrero, Head of Division, EIB Advisory/JASPERS<br><b>Regulatory requirements in the 2021-2027 Programming Period</b><br>Monika Tchavdarova, Team Leader - Coordination of Programmes, DG REGIO |
| 14:00 – 14:30 | <b>Study on selection of operations in 2014-2020 and practices in EU Member States</b><br>Ieva Cerniute, Policy Officer, DG REGIO  |

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- 14:30 – 15:00 **Lessons learned from 2014-20 Independent Quality Review (IQR) experience**  
Fergal Trace, Senior Transport Economist, EIB Advisory/JASPERS  
Michal Marcincak, Senior Officer, EIB Advisory/JASPERS
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- 15:00 – 16:00 **JASPERS support on strengthening capacities for project assessment and selection in 2021-27: concrete examples and experiences**
- Support for project appraisal in Slovenia and Croatia**  
Massimo Marra, Principal Advisor, Capacity Building Coordinator, EIB Advisory/JASPERS  
Martin Pospisil, Senior Economist, EIB Advisory/JASPERS
- Project appraisal support in the transport sector in Romania and Bulgaria**  
Andreea Raducu, Senior Transport Specialist, EIB Advisory/JASPERS
- Project Appraisal support in the context of the Just Transition Fund**  
Michael Schaller, Principal Advisor, EIB Advisory/JASPERS
- JASPERS assistance on Climate proofing and State Aid**  
Massimo Marra, Principal Advisor, Capacity Building Coordinator, EIB Advisory/JASPERS  
Christos Peolidis, State Aid Expert, EIB Advisory/JASPERS
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- 16:00 – 16:25 **Q & A and open discussion with interventions from MSs**
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- 16:25 -16:30 **Closing remarks and next steps**  
Luis Hebrero, Head of Division, EIB Advisory/JASPERS
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