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Workshop – Private Matters

How to involve business in your project
Billund 16 June 2016

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A flying introduction to....

- State Aid – Good or bad? Who's affected?
- The 4 State Aid options for beneficiaries
- 'No Competitive Advantage'
- General Block Exemption Regulation – Article 20
- De minimis
- Aid for final recipients
- Revenue, rights and filing

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State Aid – Good or bad?

- Allows us to support growth in SMEs
- Complex to understand but relatively easy to manage
- Different rules and requirements compared to regular projects

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State Aid – Who's affected?

- Public or private
- Various criteria...the only one that really matters here is whether a grant or other support confers a 'competitive advantage' on an undertaking
- C.3.4 Please describe all measures/ activities/ outcomes that confer or may confer a competitive advantage to one or more beneficiaries in the partnership (Full Application Form)

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State Aid – 4 options for beneficiaries

- Not state aid relevant
- No competitive advantage
- General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) – Article 20
- De minimis

- Selected per partner – Possible to mix within the partnership

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State Aid – Not state aid relevant

- Cannot be used for private bodies
- Applies to core public sector actions where there is no competitive market between Member States
- If this status is accepted, no further action required on state aid



State Aid – No Competitive Advantage

- All affected beneficiaries (including private) must meet four conditions:
- All findings made public free of charge – to a level allowing duplication of results (does not apply to protected material produced *before* the project)
- No rights that limit access or involve payment
- Not-for-profit: At cost and without profit
- Must respect tender rules
- Self-declaration required with application

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State Aid – GBER Article 20

- Aid for cooperation costs incurred by SMEs participating in European Territorial Cooperation projects
- SMEs only
- 50% reimbursement of costs
- Max €2 million per SME per project
- Project self-declaration + publication on programme website – No notification requirement to European Commission

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State Aid – GBER Article 20

- **What are cooperation costs?**
- Staff and office costs provided that these are directly linked to the project
- Advisory and support services linked to cooperation and provided by external consultants or service providers. This means consulting, assistance and training for the exchange of knowledge and experience and for improvement of cooperation
- Travel and costs of equipment and investment directly related to the project, and depreciation of tools and equipment used directly for the project



State Aid – De minimis

- Allows de minimis aid up to €200,000 per undertaking over three years (current + 2 previous)
- 50% reimbursement
- Open to large enterprises as well
- Requires a self-declaration

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Follow the money – Aid for final recipients

- What is a final recipient?
- Can be supported through GBER (50%) or de minimis (100%)
- Requires collection of self-declarations from all SMEs involved
- The beneficiary providing support remains liable for the full grant
- **These rules still subject to final confirmation!**

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State Aid – Revenue, rights and filing

- Beneficiaries approved under one of the aid schemes:
- Can generate revenue from project activities without repayment to the programme
- Can retain rights / charge for access to project results
- Must retain all documentation for 10 years after project end

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State Aid – Where to find out more?

- Fact sheet 15 – Private sector beneficiaries
- Fact sheet 16 – State Aid
- Fact sheet 17 – State Aid for final recipients (pending)
- Fact sheet 27 – Intellectual property rights and ownership of project investments

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Thanks for your attention

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