



ESPON 2013 Programme

4th Financial Managers Seminar

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Leiden – The Netherlands

CV of Speakers

Sara Ferrara

Sara Ferrara works at the ESPON Coordination Unit as Cluster Coordinator “Programme, Finance and Budget”/Project Expert for Targeted Analyses. She started working here in 2003 as Project Expert.

Before joining the ESPON CU, Sara was responsible for evaluation procedures and monitoring of projects at the Joint Technical Secretariat of the IIIB Medocc and IIIC South Programmes. Prior to that, she was for several years coordinating the monitoring of the Phare Partnership Programme after having being the main expert within the Technical Assistance Unit.

Sara also worked as an international consultant for a British consultancy where she delivered technical assistance services to various EC DGs.

For several years she has been contributing to the review “Europa e Mezzogiorno” targeting local actors of the public sector. Sara started her professional carrier as research assistant in Sardinia at the CRENOS Centre for North-South Economic Research (University of Cagliari, Department of Regional Economics) mainly dealing with economic convergence across regions in the European Union.

Sara holds a degree in Political Sciences and two Masters in EU studies.

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József Szarka

József Szarka is working as Financial Expert at the ESPON Coordination Unit since 2005. He is responsible for project management and project monitoring including a wide range of programme and financial management tasks, such as organization of selection procedures, evaluation of proposals and expression of interests, contracting, liaison with transnational project groups, assessment and recommendations for progress reports with regard to eligibility and certification procedures, supervision and guidance of project partners.

Before joining the ESPON CU, József was holding a position of an executive expert at the Centre for Regional Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The focus of his work was international project management, in particular financial management, accounting, reporting and auditing of various ESPON, INTERREG, FP5 and FP6 projects.

He started his professional carrier in 2002 at the Transdanubian Research Institute being responsible for international relations. József holds two university degrees in economics and law from University of Pécs.

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Mélanie Donjon

Mélanie Donjon started working in 2009 as Financial Expert at the ESPON Coordination Unit. She is currently in charge of the Second Level Audit coordination and follow-up of audit related deliveries including system audit, audit of operations, the secretarial function related to the Group of Auditors. She is also responsible for the implementation of MA quality checks on the spot and assistance in quality checks of First Level Control. She provides support to the Audit Authority of the ESPON 2013 Programme and is also contributing to legal support and advice.

Before joining the ESPON CU, Mélanie was holding a position of a senior consultant at the Cabinet Ernst & Young Luxembourg in the Advisory department for the Industry and Public sector. The focus of her work was international and national project monitoring, in particular in relation to financial management, including due diligence engagements, accounting and reporting related missions, performance assessment, analytical audits, risk mapping and financial auditing of structural funds.

Mélanie holds a Master degree in Management from the EDHEC Business School in France.

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Elpida Kotsifaki

Elpida Kotsifaki is a trainee at the ESPON Coordination Unit since August 2010 supporting the Cluster "Programme, Finance and Budget". Elpida has an International Relations and European Politics background and holds a master in International Development Policies and Practices while currently she is working on a master in Business Administration.

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