



**STATE-OF-THE-ART AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES FOR THE PROTECTION OF EU
FINANCIAL INTERESTS THROUGH DATA ANALYSIS**

To be held on

17-18th of November

Padua – Via Niccolò Tommaseo 67/c

Interpretation from/into: NO

Language: EN

This event is supported by the European Union Programme Hercule III (2014-2020). This programme is implemented by the European Commission. It was established to promote activities in the field of the protection of the financial interests of the European Union. (for more information see: https://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud/policy/hercule_en)

Practical information for participants

Contact details

Marco Popolizio: marco.popolizio@avepa.it

Francesco Rosa: francesco.rosa@avepa.it

Dates and venues

Arrival of participants: Tuesday 16th of November 2021

Seminar: Wednesday-Thursday 17-18th of November 2021

Address of the venue:

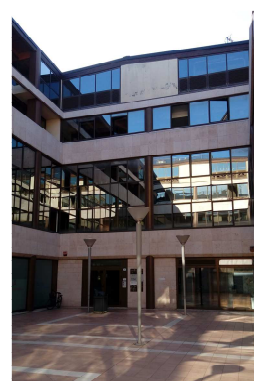
AVEPA – Paying Agency of Veneto Region

35131 Padova (PD) - via Niccolò Tommaseo 67/C – 3rd floor



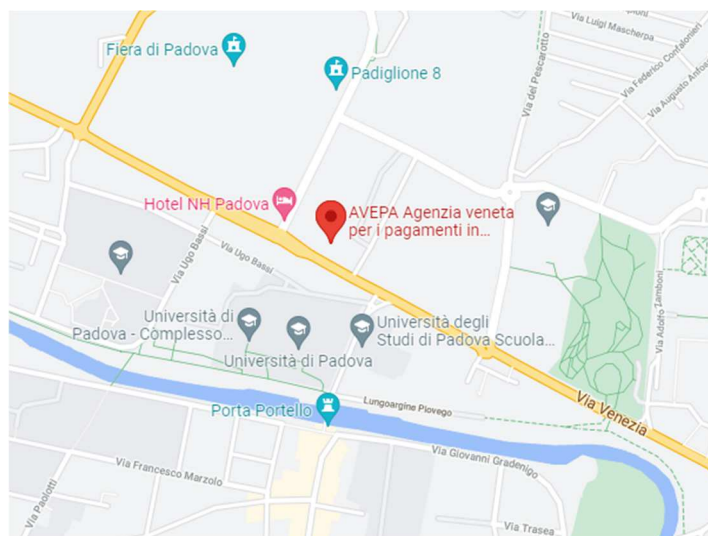
We will welcome participants at the ground floor of the building
entrance n.67/C

Seminar will be held at the 3rd floor. Please assure to keep a valid EU Digital Covid Certificate with you as it requested to enter our premises and it will be checked at the reception.



How to get to the venue:

AVEPA's premises are located next to NH Hotel



AGENDA

17.11.2021		
1st Day – Taking stock of good practices related to the protection of financial interests		
Time	Action	Speaker(s)
09:00 – 09:30	Arrival and registration of participants	
09:30 – 09:35	Opening address/Welcome and introduction to the programme	Mauro Trapani - Director of AVEPA
Chair of the meeting: Francesco Rosa		
09:35 – 10:00	<u>Presentation of AVEPA, the Paying Agency of Veneto Region</u>	Francesco Rosa - Head of the Territorial Integration Department
10:00 – 10:15	Questions and Discussion	
10:15 – 10:45	<u>AVEPA's integrated strategy for the management of irregularities and all infringements</u>	Francesco Rosa - Head of the Territorial Integration Department
10:45 - 11:00	Questions and Discussion	
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break	

11:30 – 12:00	<u>Data-driven Internal audit risk assessment</u>	Marco Popolizio – Internal Auditor
12:00 – 12:15	Questions and Discussion	
12:15– 12:45	<u>Revising the managing system to tackle the creation of artificial conditions to receive funds</u>	Francesco Rosa - Head of the Territorial Integration Department
12:45 – 13:00	Questions and Discussion	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 14:30	<u>Farm’s data management in AVEPA: implementing a preventive approach to tackle irregularities and ease the payment procedures</u>	Andrea Francesco Marcon – Delegated Activities Unit
14:30 – 14:45	Questions and Discussion	
14:45 – 15:15	<u>The use of SENTINEL data in the control process</u>	Dennis Romeo Milani – IT Department / Giovanni Lusiani – LPIS Department
15.15 – 15:30	Questions and Discussion	
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00 – 16:30	<u>Reasonableness of machineries costs: AVEPA’s experience</u>	Marco Trevisan – Territorial coordination of intangible interventions
16:30 – 16:45	Questions and Discussion	
16:45 – 17:15	<u>Risk based control sampling for the prevention of irregularities</u>	Davide Bortolozzo – Sampling Unit
17:15 – 17:30	Questions and Discussion	
From 18:15	Guided City walk in Padua followed by dinner	

18.11.2021		
2 nd Day – Exploring innovative methods & data mining tools		
Time	Action	Speaker(s)
Chair of the meeting: Francesco Rosa		
09:00 – 09:30	<u>OTSC in ROP ERDF 2014-2020 – Practical experiences and lessons learned from an innovative IT approach</u>	Laura Brocco – ERDF ROP Intermediate body
09:30 – 09:45	Questions and Discussion	
09:45 – 10:45	<u>Implementing ARACHNE in CAP 2021-2027 programming period in AVEPA: First results</u>	Vittorio Benetti – IT Department/ Francesco Rosa - Head of the Territorial Integration Department
10:45 – 11:00	Questions and Discussion	
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break	
11:30 – 12:00	<u>ARACHNE Risk Analysis Model – Croatian experience</u>	Mario Sabljic, Head of Sector – APPRRR – HR
12:00 – 12:15	Questions and Discussion	
12:15 – 12:45	<u>The use of Arachne in the frame of ROP ERDF 2014-2020 – Practical experiences and lesson learned</u>	Linda Dal Maso - Managing Authority - ERDF Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020 of the Veneto Region
12:45 – 13:00	Questions and Discussion	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 15:00	<u>Brainstorming session</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IT tools for the prevention of fraud (Arachne) Data-driven land monitoring Farms data analysis for the prevention of potential frauds Moderators: Mario Sabljic, Francesco Rosa, Dennis Romeo Milani	Participants of the meeting
15:00 -15:30	<u>Wrap-up of the day and draft policy recommendations</u>	Francesco Rosa and Rando Undrus
15:30	End of conference followed by guided walk in Venice	

Note on Brainstorming session:

Each delegation will appoint at least 1 member for each brainstorming group based on the discussed topics.

Covid measures

Latest updated travel information can be found on:

<https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioContenutiNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&id=5412&area=nuovoCoronavirus&menu=vuoto>

Limitations on entry from List C countries (Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, ...):

Free movement is allowed to and from these countries for any reason, therefore also for tourism, as long as you have not stayed in or passed through one of the countries on List E in the 14 days prior to entering Italy.

Requirements for entry into Italy

For all those who, during the fourteen days prior to entry into Italy, have stayed in or passed through one or more States and territories referred to in List C, the legislation provides that, upon entry into Italy, the following will be mandatory:

- *fill in the **Digital Passenger Locator Form** before entering Italy. The form replaces the self-declaration made to the transport operator.*
- *providing the **EU Digital Covid Certificate** in one of the following languages: Italian, English, French or Spanish, showing one of the following conditions:*

having completed the prescribed anti-SARS-CoV-2 vaccination cycle

or

that you have recovered from COVID-19 (the certificate of recovery is valid for 180 days from the date of the first positive swab)

or

that you have taken a negative molecular or antigen swab test prior to entering Italy.

Failure to submit even just one of these documents entails self-isolation at the address indicated on the Passenger Locator Form for 5 days, at the end of which an antigen or molecular swab test will be carried out.

Please note that the digital Passenger Locator Form (PLF) - dPLF, provided for by the Ordinance of 16 April 2021, must be completed by all passengers arriving in Italy, by any means of transport, before entering national territory.

Please assure to have the **EU Digital Covid Certificate valid during the length of your stay** as it is requested to enter AVEPA's premises on both days and for consumption at table indoors in restaurant and bars.

BARS AND RESTAURANTS:** Bars, pubs, restaurants, ice cream parlours and pastry shops are open. They must display a sign indicating the maximum number of people allowed inside simultaneously. Consumption at table is always allowed. There is no limit to the number of people who may sit at the same outdoor table. Up to a maximum of 6 non-cohabiting people may sit together indoors; there are no limits to the number of people for 2 families who decide to dine together at the same table. **Everyone over 12 years of age must show the COVID-19 digital green certificate for consumption at table indoors.

***FACE MASK AND DISTANCING:** Wearing a face mask is always mandatory in indoor public places throughout Italy. Masks are no longer mandatory outdoors, but you must always carry one with you and wear it if you find yourself in crowded conditions that do not allow the 1 metre safety distance to be maintained.*

***LOCAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** Local public transport (buses, metro, trams, etc.) may circulate with max. 80% passengers. The COVID-19 green pass is not needed in order to use these means of transport.*

You can find even more info at:

<http://www.italia.it/en/useful-info/covid-19-updates-information-for-tourists.html>

Abstracts of presentations delivered during the visit to Padua (Italy)

A short visit report from the study visit of the 19th and 20th of November 2021

List of covered topics

Day 1: 19th November 2021 – theme: Taking stock of good practices related to the protection of financial interests

	Presentation name	Presented by
Presentation 1	Presentation of AVEPA, the Paying Agency of Veneto Region	Francesco Rosa, Head of the Territorial Integration Department
Presentation 2	AVEPA's integrated strategy for the management of irregularities and all infringements	Francesco Rosa, Head of the Territorial Integration Department
Presentation 3	Data-driven Internal audit risk assessment	Marco Popolizio, Internal Auditor
Presentation 4	Revising the managing system to tackle the creation of artificial conditions to receive funds	Francesco Rosa, Head of the Territorial Integration Department
Presentation 5	Farm's data management in AVEPA: implementing a preventive approach to tackle irregularities and ease the payment procedures	Andrea Francesco Marcon, Delegated Activities Unit
Presentation 6	The use of SENTINEL data in the control process	Dennis Romeo Milani, IT Department; Giovanni Lusiani, LPIS Department
Presentation 7	Reasonableness of machineries' costs: AVEPA's experience	Marco Trevisan, Territorial coordination of intangible interventions
Presentation 8	Risk based control sampling for the prevention of irregularities	Davide Bortolozzo, Sampling Unit

Day 2: 20th November 2021 – theme: Exploring innovative methods and data mining tools

	Presentation name	Presented by
Presentation 9	OTSC in ROP ERDF 2014-2020 – Practical experiences and lessons learned from an innovative IT approach	Laura Brocco, ERDF ROP Intermediate body
Presentation 10	Implementing ARACHNE in CAP 2021-2027 programming period in AVEPA: First results	Vittorio Benetti, IT Department; Francesco Rosa, Head of the Territorial Integration Department
Presentation 11	ARACHNE Risk Analysis Model – Croatian experience	Mario Sabljčić, Head of Sector at APPRRR (HR)
Presentation 12 - <i>in videoconference</i>	The use of Arachne in the frame of ROP ERDF 2014-2020 – Practical experiences and lesson learned	Linda Dal Maso, Managing Authority of 2014-2020 ERDF ROP of the Veneto Region
Brainstorming session	Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT tools for the prevention of fraud (Arachne) • Data-driven land monitoring • Farms data analysis for the prevention of potential frauds 	Moderators: Mario Sabljčić, Francesco Rosa, Dennis Romeo Milani

Summary of the visit

Visit title: State-of-the-Art and future perspectives for the protection of EU financial interests through data analysis

Day 1: 19th November 2021 - theme: **Taking stock of good practices related to the protection of financial interests**

The meeting started with an opening speech by the Director of AVEPA and several topics were addressed during the day with the purpose of sharing and discussing AVEPA's experiences related to the protection of financial interests from different points of view. After a presentation of the Agency, the only Regional PA participating in the project and the system in which it is operating, the integrated strategy bringing together obligations and initiatives related to anti-corruption, anti-money laundering and anti-fraud has been outlined. A risk assessment tool based on data analysis and objective criteria for internal audit purposes has been then touched upon. An overview on compliance with accreditation criteria and the importance of establishing and maintaining an effective internal control system as a first step towards the protection of financial interests and for the protection

against fraud has been provided. A first insight on possible risky areas which can be more prone to potential frauds based on experience gathered through previous OLAF projects was also under discussion. A systematic approach to tackle the creation of artificial conditions embedded in PA's procedures, documents and checklists has been then presented before going into more details of what different Agency's sectors are doing for protecting the financial interests by acting at Regional level. Notably, a broad overview of the management of Farm's data collected through the Farm Register and the use of Sentinel data for control activities was delivered. A demo was also shared with participants during the presentation on the land monitoring system. Finally issues such as the reasonableness of costs (related to machineries) which were already touched upon during previous project meetings have been also deepened from AVEPA's perspective and risk-based sample selection procedures further explored. The overall idea was to provide participants with an in-depth overview of procedures and methods and to further discuss some issues during the second day (namely the analysis of farm data and data-driven land monitoring) with the purpose of exploring new way forwards in these fields.

Day 2: 20th November 2021 – theme: **Exploring innovative methods and data mining tools**

The second day started with the presentation of an innovative method used in the frame of ERDF ROP for remote OTSCs which has been introduced in time of pandemics (i.e. Video call checks) and could bring a positive contribution, among other things, in terms of prevention of corruptive risks. Main topic of the day was the presentation and discussion of different experiences in the use of Arachne. The first experience of AVEPA in using this tool has been unveiled and future implementation steps, particularly from the IT perspective, have been deepened. The Croatian experience was also shared and to enrich the discussion during the subsequent brainstorming session, the point of view of the ERDF Managing Authority at the Veneto Region also added in videoconference mode. Project participants have been split into three thematic sub-groups during the brainstorming session discussing IT tools for the prevention of fraud (notably Arachne), Data-driven land monitoring and Farms data analysis for the prevention of potential frauds. The day was concluded with a quick wrap-up session contributing to map the acquired know-how on data-driven risk-analysis (software and other methods).

List of attachments/appendixes with files added

1. SmartPro_Italy_presentation-1_AVEPA.pdf
2. SmartPro_Italy_presentation-2_Strategy.pdf
3. SmartPro_Italy_presentation-3_IARiskAssessment.pdf
4. SmartPro_Italy_presentation-4_ArtificialConditions.pdf
5. SmartPro_Italy_presentation-5_FarmDataManagement.pdf
6. SmartPro_Italy_presentation-6_SentinelData.pdf
7. SmartPro_Italy_presentation-7_ReasonablenessCosts.pdf
8. SmartPro_Italy_presentation-8_RiskBasedControlSampling.pdf
9. SmartPro_Italy_presentation-9_OTSC-ERDF.pdf
10. SmartPro_Italy_presentation-10_ArachneAVEPA.pdf
11. SmartPro_Italy_presentation-11_ArachneHR.pdf
12. SmartPro_Italy_presentation-12_ArachneERDFVeneto.pdf